

LAPTOP LETTERS

*Sending Wise & Loving Messages
to Young People in Your Life*

Words They'll Remember You By



**With
Good Ideas
for Family
Text-Messaging**

Bill Zimmerman
illustrations by Tom Bloom

Laptop Letters

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to Young People in Your Life*

Words They'll Remember You By



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(TYPE HERE)
This book belongs to _____



Laptop Letters:

Sending Wise & Loving Messages to Young People in Your Life

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ISBN 978-0-935966-05-3

Library of Congress Preassigned Control Number: 2010912264

Book design: Eileen Berasi

The author welcomes your comments and suggestions that you would like to see included in future editions. Please write: William Zimmerman, Guarionex Press Ltd., 201 West 77 Street, New York, NY 10024. Thank you.

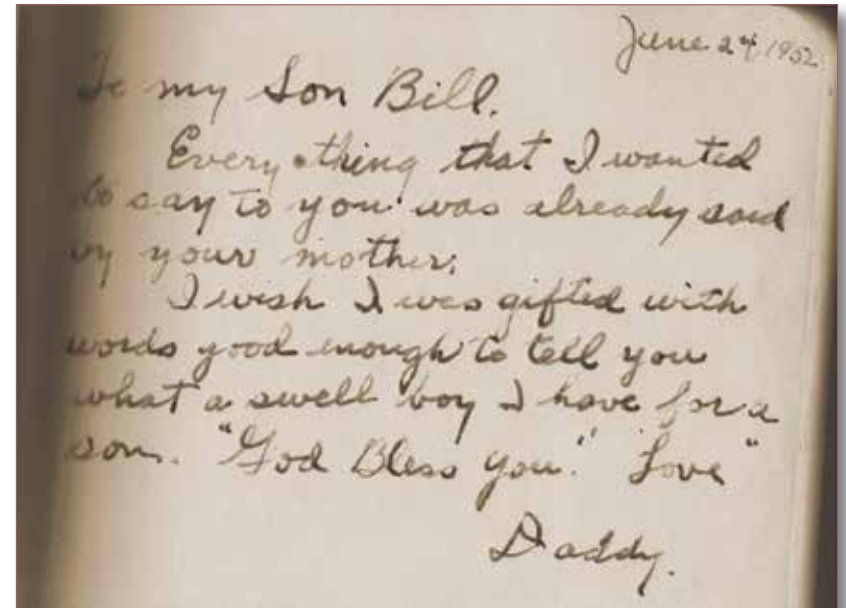
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For other books by Bill Zimmerman, visit <http://www.billztreasurechest.com>
or <http://www.makebeliefscomix.com>



Dedicated to
my mother and father
and to my grandparents,
and offered in love
to my wife and daughter
and my brother's family
— B.Z.

This book is formatted as an interactive digital journal. It will allow you to type directly on your screen into the areas with lines on each of the book's pages. When you are done typing, simply save the document until the next time you are inspired to make new entries.



Dear reader,

Think how much it can mean for a young person or adult to receive an email message from a parent, grandparent or caregiver which begins with the words, “This is what I want from the depths of my heart for you” or “This is what you mean to me.” If you were the recipient, wouldn’t you keep and treasure such words for the rest of your life?

With this book I encourage you to do something very special for your children or grandchildren—and that is to pass on to them some of the important things in your heart that you have to teach

them. Using your laptop or personal computer—your modern-day writing tool, the equivalent of the old pen—send messages of love and wisdom to the children in your lives on an ongoing basis, even as they grow and mature into adults. With these important emails you build and hand down your family legacy, something the young people will possess all their lives and pass on to their own kids.

In this fast-moving age some say there is just no time to write letters. But that's not so when we can use our computers to quickly write loving, encouraging messages. Throughout the day most of us already use laptops to send messages to family, friends and colleagues relating the things that happen to us. Why not, then, begin to set aside time to purposefully compose emails to your children or grandchildren in which you share important stories about what you have learned in your life?

This book offers you many writing prompts for composing important, loving messages that will help and inspire your children. You can start writing them from the time when your children are young and first beginning to attend school, then when they go away to college, and later when they cross over into adulthood and enter parenthood. Throughout their lives our children, no matter what their age, need our advice and encouragement. Your family emails of love and wisdom will be a great gift to them that they will always treasure.



Why do I think your words are so important to your child? My own life tells me so: I lost my father when I was quite young and I missed hearing the words a boy needs to hear while growing up. My father was not one to put many words on paper—the only ones I ever received from him are those he penned in my elementary school autograph book when I graduated. He wrote: “I wish I was gifted with words good enough to tell you what a swell boy I have for a son. God Bless You. Love, Daddy.”

Just 26 words—the length of most emails today. But they stayed with me all my life and I look at them from time to time when I need some words of assurance. They are his legacy to me.

A few years ago, one Sunday before Father's Day, I felt all alone and missed my dad very much. To ease my pain and to find some comfort that day I began writing a letter “from” my father to

...emails of love and wisdom will be a great gift

me in which I had him “say” all the things that I needed to hear—that he loved me, that he was proud of me and what I had accomplished with my life. I think I really was writing that letter to the boy I once was, and in the months ahead I continued writing more such letters of encouragement to a young boy. In so doing, I was putting an arm around that child's shoulder, an arm around myself.

From this experience I saw how useful it would be for parents to write to their children and say the important things that need to be said. Your writing such heart-felt words becomes part of your legacy to a child in your life who, in turn, will incorporate their meaning within and hold them sacred forever.



Try now to imagine your own child one day all grown. It's a rainy Saturday morning, she's feeling all alone and is rummaging through her personal treasure box. She is searching for an old emailed note of yours which she's saved through the years, the one in which you expressed your love to her or maybe a funny story. That letter

brings a smile to her face and gives her courage. Your own daughter or son, whether grown or very young, will treasure and hang on to your words, too, even if you have only 26 of them within you to offer. Your child needs to hear your good words as she embarks on her life's journey. And believe me, you have good stuff in you to share with your children that they need to hear over the years as they grow and mature, if only you'll take time to write.

To begin, just find a quiet place where you can hear your thoughts. For inspiration, gather some photos of the children you love and look at them from time to time as you write. Perhaps there are other mementos to help inspire you and spark your writing. As you write to your children, think of yourself as having a conversation with them—it's that simple!

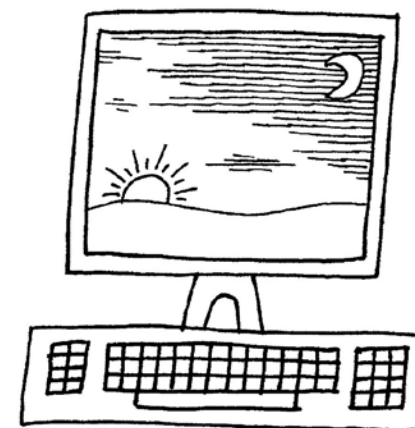
To help you, on the pages which follow I have included writing prompts or ideas on a variety of subjects to guide you in expressing your personal thoughts for the young person in your life.

They are meant to help you think about what you want to say and ease the way for you to say the important things that you want children to know. Things like your hopes and wishes for them, what you regard as their special qualities, favorite family stories or proverbs, even advice on how to beat the blues. Write whenever you wish. I am sure that once you get started, you will have even better ideas than the ones I offer. If you prefer paper to email, you can also write your legacy notes on blank stationery or lined pages; write your thoughts on whatever makes you comfortable.

...the notes become your legacy to your child

And for those of you who prefer text messaging by phone you will find on the back side of each writing prompt page a sample message that you can use or adapt for your text message. These hopefully will spark your own personal text messages which you can jot them down in the space provided and send them whenever you wish to your child. Many children today receive scores of text messages daily—why not one from you telling them something loving and wise or fun?

Also, to offer you some ideas of the wide range of subjects you can write about I've included a section of letters which I've written to children in my own life, as well as some which I wish I had received while growing up. I included them simply to inspire you as you search for your own valuable words for your own



letters to children. I am sure that the letters which you will write in your own special voice will be even more meaningful to your child. If this book encourages you to write only one message or letter, even one only 26 words long like my dad's note to me, then it will have accomplished its goal.



In addition to using your laptop to send legacy messages, you might want to write your thoughts on lovely stationery or in a book which you can present to a young person on some special occasion. Such handwritten pages would make a wonderful gift to a child—young or grown—for a birthday or graduation. Or you can give this young person a scrapbook in which you've pasted copies of your emailed notes over the years. These notes become your legacy to your child—they contain what is deepest in your heart, what you know, what you feel,

...your words will give children courage

what you want for the one whom you love. The words can reflect your humor, your wisdom, your values. They will be a helping hand to your children and encourage them. Your messages will be your loving blessing to them.

Fathers in particular need to say and write the words—we can't take it for granted that our children know that we love them. We need to take the extra step and tell them the caring words that are within us even if we find it hard to wrest them from our silences and our words come out slowly, haltingly. This is our responsibility. Don't be afraid to say the very words that may have been said to you or

which you wish had been told to you. Having a child and showing that you love her or him is your chance to make up for all the lost opportunities in your own life when you were young. Your children need to read about your hopes and dreams for them—your words will give children courage in their own lives as they take uncharted new roads.

Anyone can use this book—expectant parents-to-be and grandparents-to-be who want to express their hopes for their yet unborn child or grandchild, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, family friends, teachers and counselors, anyone who cares about a child in his or her life and who wants to share some special message. A new grandparent can even write letters that can be given to the child 16 years from now for her Sweet Sixteen or post-dated 21 years ahead to be presented to her upon graduation from college or for her wedding.



Remember that you don't need to write your legacy messages all at once. Communicating your thoughts to someone you care about is a lifelong process—your child will always be your child even after she or he is all grown. And don't worry about making spelling or grammatical mistakes—writing what you feel is an expression of love, not a test. If you have trouble writing, then just dictate your thoughts into a tape recorder which you can transcribe later into an email or on paper. You can also make a videotape of you reading your letter aloud to accompany a letter to your child. With today's technology your words can be conveyed so many ways.

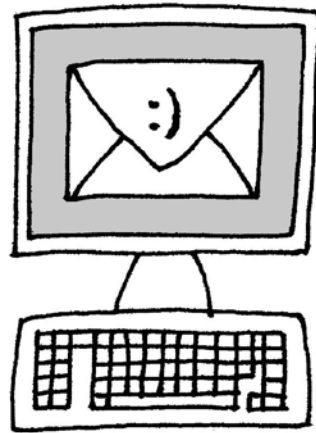
One thing more: the process of creating your legacy letters will even help you better understand yourself. Some time ago I read about a psychiatrist who works with end-of-life cancer patients and who said that all people can benefit from reflecting on what's most meaningful in life. "Every human being wrestles with the question: How can you live knowing that you're going to die?" said William Breitbart, a Memorial Sloan-Kettering psychiatrist. "Most of us are too distracted to think about it." But ask yourself, 'What accomplishments are you most proud of? What do you want your legacy to be?' It's never too late," he says. Writing your letters will help you express your personal legacy.

It is a good and generous thing you are doing in passing on to a young person what you have learned and come to know from your own living. Such sharing links the generations and draws families closer.

So write from your big heart and enjoy every moment of this loving task you are about to undertake for a loved child in your life.

Sincerely,

Bill Zimmerman



Ideas For Wise & Loving Messages to Young People in Your Life...





Writing Prompt

What You Mean to Me...

This is the message where you tell your child or grandchild what he or she truly means to you—no ifs, ands, or buts about it. This is where you open your heart and fully express your love for your children and what they have added to your life. Maybe this is the love letter you always wanted to receive yourself in growing up and wish someone had

taken the time to write to you. Don't be embarrassed in writing about what you deeply feel. This is, after all, your special truth about your son or daughter.



Some good words to text message...

Always look for rainbows.

There is beauty around us
if we look and

if we look amidst

our tears.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...



Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
This is what you mean to me...

(TYPE HERE)

[illegible]

These Are the Words Which I Wish Someone Had Spoken to Me to Help Me Make My Way in Life...

A cartoon pencil character with a face, arms, and legs, holding a large speech bubble. The pencil has a friendly expression with eyes and a small smile. It is holding a large, empty speech bubble with its right hand. The pencil is oriented vertically, with its eraser at the top and its sharp lead tip at the bottom. The drawing is simple, using black outlines on a white background.

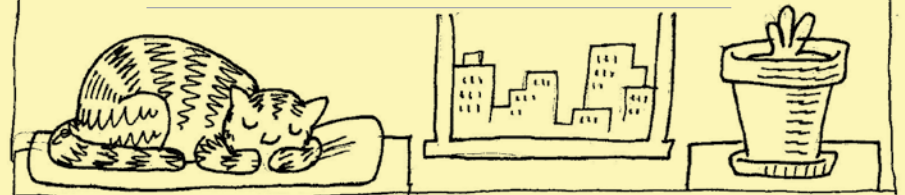
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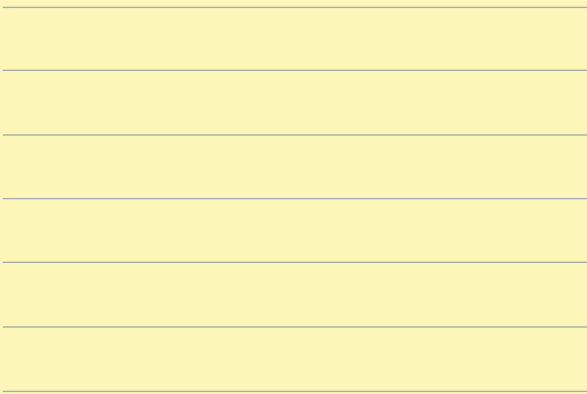
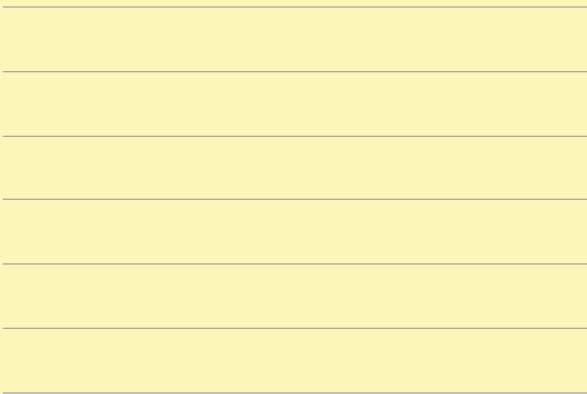
A cartoon illustration of a woman with short, dark, wavy hair and glasses. She is wearing a white turtleneck sweater. She is holding a mobile phone with a keypad in her hands and looking at it. There are small curved lines around the phone indicating it is vibrating or ringing. A thought bubble is visible above her head.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

(TYPE HERE)

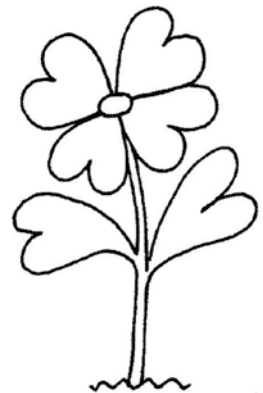
Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes






For A Child Yet Unborn: This Is What I Want From the Depths of My Heart for You...

This is the letter where you talk about all the things in your heart that you want for your child—to have good health, to find love, to have a life filled with joy and beautiful butterflies. Maybe you want your child to always walk on a bridge of rainbows or to soar with the eagles.



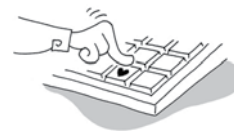
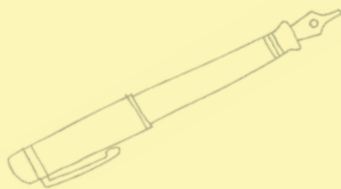
Create visions
for your life—it is
important to stand
apart from your day
and dream about
the future.

*Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...*

A cartoon illustration of an older man with a large nose, glasses, and a bow tie, sitting at a desk and looking at a laptop. The laptop screen shows a simple drawing of a face. The man is pointing at the screen with his right hand. The desk is represented by a few horizontal lines.

(TYPE HERE)





Writing Prompt

These Were Some Hopes That I Had When I Was Your Age...

This is the letter in which your child sees you more clearly as another human being, and not just as a parent. Your words will help your son or daughter understand that at one point in your life, when you were younger like him or her, you had hopes and dreams, too. Maybe you wanted to be a movie star or ballerina, or a great athlete. Or a doctor or scientist, or to be like some hero you admired. Maybe you wanted to become a poet or artist. Maybe your hope was to find someone to love who would love you back with all their heart.



In this message, let your son or daughter hear your voice. Let them read about all the wonderful, even foolish dreams you had when you were very young. Our honesty in revealing yourself will help reinforce the message to your child that there is great value and importance in having dreams. Yes, not all of your dreams came true, but a good enough number of them did. You of all people know the importance of having hopes and their usefulness in making our lives much more worth living. Who can survive without a dream?

Now, tell your child what yours were—and even what they might be today.

Some good words to text message...

Baby step by baby step,
climb the mountain of your life.
Don't let anything come between
you and your goals.



Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
These were some hopes that I had when I was your age...

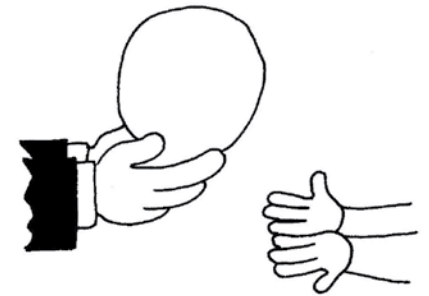
(TYPE HERE)



Writing Prompt

There Was Something Important That Was Said to Me When I Was A Child and Which I Now Pass Along to You to Help You in Your Life...

My cousin once said to me that the most important words which her mother told her were, "Take a chance, don't be afraid." These words empowered her and gave her courage to try new things in life.



Or, maybe someone said to you these simple, full words, "I love you with all my heart," and these words have made all the difference to you as you undertook your lonely journey to grow up and forge a life for yourself.

Maybe these important words are the ones you whispered to your child when he or she was very young, or make up the prayer you silently mouth each day for your loved one.

In this letter, share these important words with your children. They will take these words and call upon them when they need comfort and encouragement.



Some good words to text message...



Love
with fullness
of spirit.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
There was something important that was said to me
when I was a child and which I now pass along to you
to help you in your life...

(TYPE HERE)



These Are Some of the Qualities Which I Hope You Will Develop and Cultivate in Your Life...

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Writing Prompt

Sharing Special Moments from My Childhood...

With this letter you help your child learn more about you when you were a child yourself. Every child wants to know what his or her parents were like when they were very young and just starting out in life—it's a way of comparing notes.

What funny or happy moments do you remember experiencing as a youth? What adventures did you have? Perhaps you'll want to write about some early event or person who made a big impression on you and helped shape the person you are today? What's the key memory of your childhood that you still carry around with you and which you'd like to share with your child or grandchild?



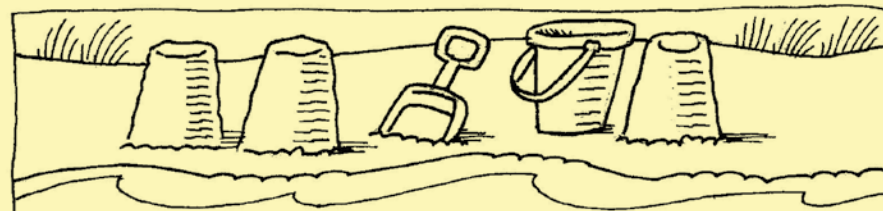
Some good words to text message...

Be gentle
and giving
to others.
They need
your love.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

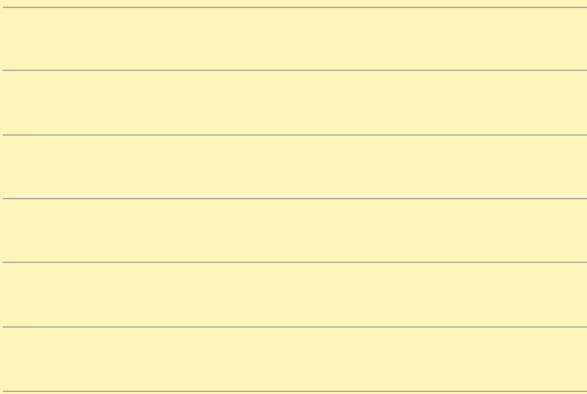


Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
I'd like to share a special moment from my childhood
with you... (TYPE HERE)

This image shows a single sheet of bright yellow paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.



One Day You Will Grow Up and Become An Adult. In My Opinion, These Are Some of the Things Expected of A Responsible Adult...

In this message, talk about what kind of adult you hope your child will grow up to become.

A cartoon illustration of a man with a large nose, wearing a plaid cap and glasses. He is holding a flip phone in his left hand and pointing at it with his right index finger. He is wearing a suit jacket over a shirt and tie.

Some people will tell you "no",
but you must say "yes"
to yourself—as often
as possible.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
One day you will grow up and become an adult.
In my opinion, these are some of the things
expected of a responsible adult...

(TYPE HERE)





Writing Prompt

Some of the Tiny Miracles I Behold Daily...

Living in a world beset by so much turmoil, we need to make our children also aware of the wonderful things that are to be found each day as we walk through life. Something as simple as hearing a bird's song. Or smelling fresh-cut grass or newly baked bread. Is a tiny miracle observing a banana ripening on the kitchen sill, its color changing from green to yellow?



With life so fast-paced today, this legacy message is intended to encourage your child to slow down a little to recognize and enjoy the wonders of the world that may be missed if we don't look carefully at what is around us.

Time to share the tiny miracles that you have discovered so far in your days. This will be affirming both to you and your child and allow you both to appreciate life more fully.



Some good words to text message...



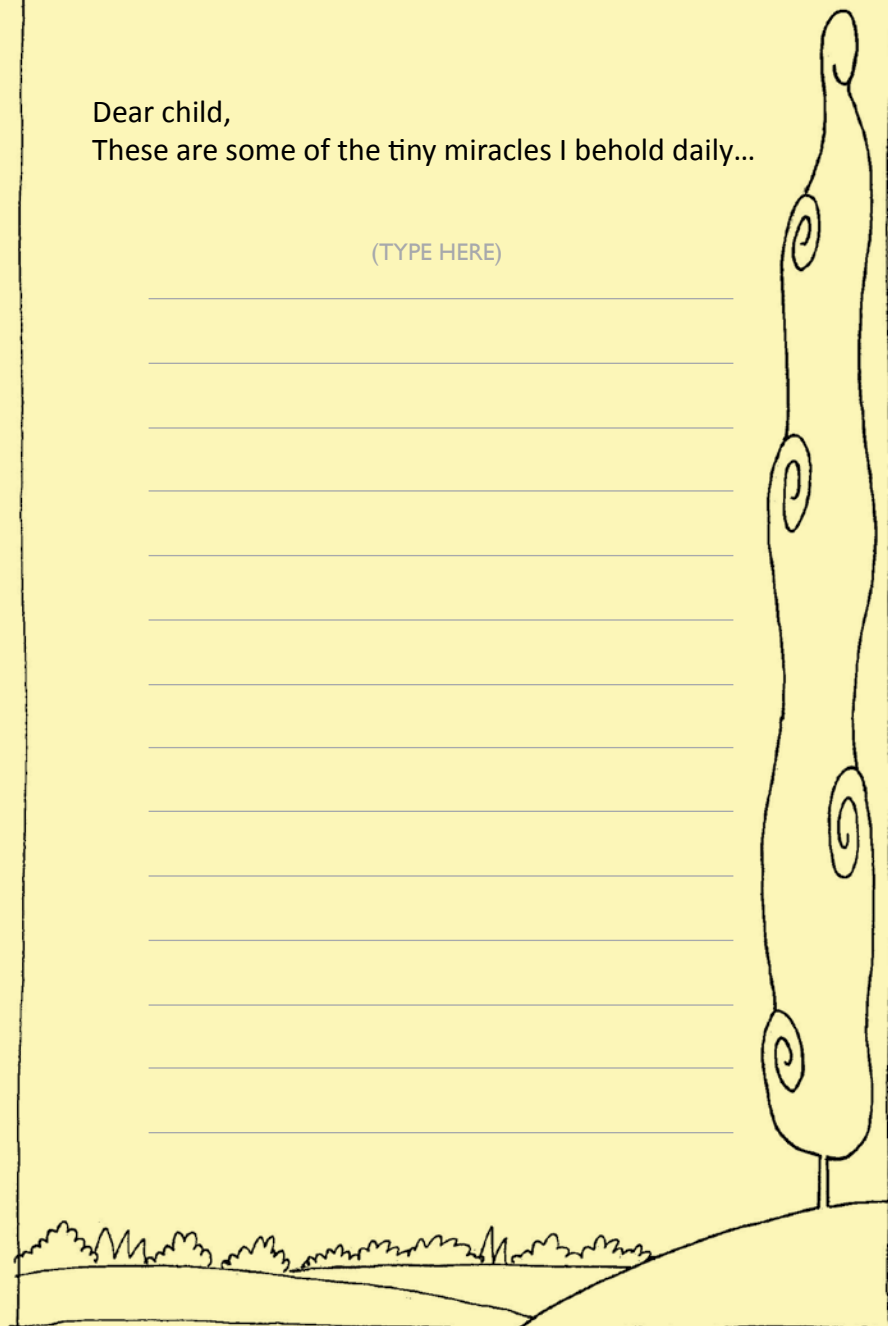
Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

50 Laptop Letters

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

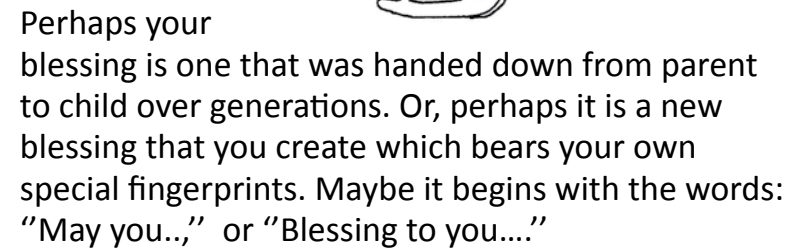
Dear child,
These are some of the tiny miracles I behold daily...

(TYPE HERE)

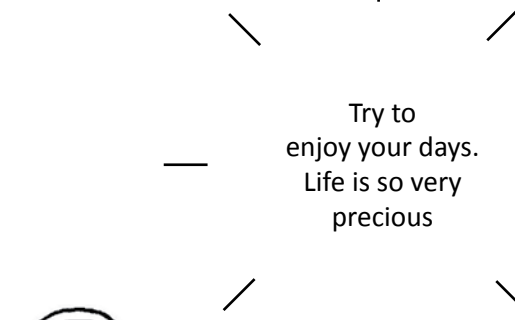


This Is My Blessing to You...

Here is a letter for you to share with your child the rich, loving and sacred words you have inside you and which you want to gift her or



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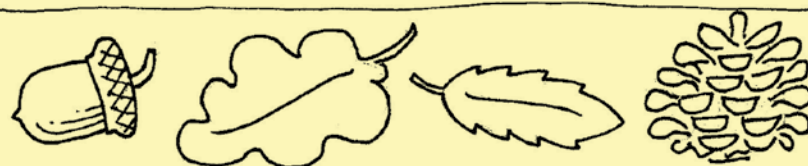


Try to
enjoy your days.
Life is so very
precious



Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

(TYPE HERE)


[illegible]

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

These Are the Most Important Words I Know That I Share with You...

Or, maybe these important words are the ones you have learned from loving others, or which were whispered to you by someone you love. Maybe they are the words you said to yourself after you stumbled or when you were ill. Or, maybe they are the words that came to you as you reflected on a big happiness in your life.

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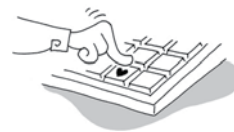


Cling to someone with all
your being.

*Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...*

(TYPE HERE)

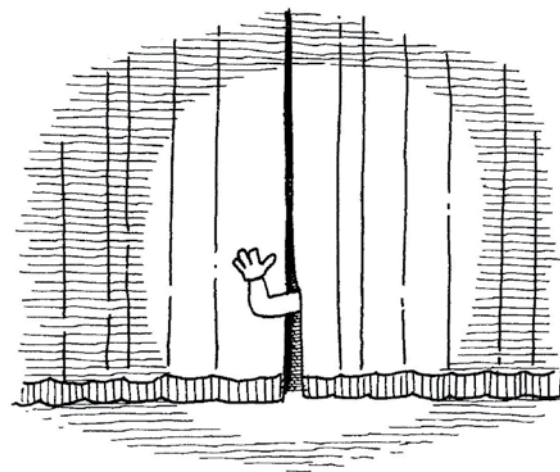
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Writing Prompt

**My Child, These Are What I See As
Some of Your Strengths and Which Make Me Proud
of You and Make You So Special...**

Every child, no matter how old or young, needs to be told that he or she has strengths and abilities that are recognized and cherished by you. Children need to be told that their parents are proud of them—this instills greater confidence that they will need to fully



explore the world. Tell your child what makes him so special—is it his sense of humor, the perseverance he shows in solving problems, his sensitivity to others, his kindness?



Do you remember when someone complimented you for the way you were and how this made you feel? Didn't you feel fully valued?

Now, it's your turn to tell your child why he or she is so very special. This message shouldn't be hard to write, should it?

Some good words to text message...



Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
These are what I see as some of your strengths and
which make me proud of you and make you so special...

(TYPE HERE)



These Are A Few of the Things I Had to Struggle With In My Own Life and How I Tried to Work Them Out...



Yes, you want to protect your child from harsh struggle and to make things easier for them than they were for you. But, as much as you love your children, you cannot live their lives for them, nor take on all the struggles and problems they will have to get through on their own in order to mature. At such challenging moments your child may feel lonely and wonder if he or she alone has such struggles.

So it will be good for your children, both to ease their minds and to show them that strife is part of life, for you to share with them some of the things you grappled with and made peace with over the years. Write from your heart.

A simple line drawing of a woman with short, wavy hair, wearing glasses and a watch on her left wrist. She is looking at a computer monitor, which is shown from the side. The drawing is minimalist, using only black outlines on a white background.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

(TYPE HERE)



These Are Some Important Questions Which You Should Think About in Life. You Don't Necessarily Need to Find All the Answers Right Away, But You Need to Consider Them...

I am sure you have your own big questions. Share them with your children. Let them know what you struggle with, what you want to examine, and they will be encouraged to do the same for themselves.

Some good words to text message...

Each day is a sacred awakening.
Take pleasure in it.

Take pleasure in it

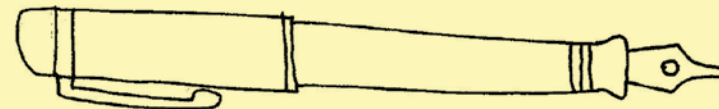
and be awed by what you see and experience

see and experience.

e. *Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...*



Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



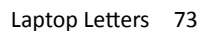
Dear child,
These are some important questions which you should think about in life. You don't necessarily need to find all the answers right away, but you need to consider them...

(TYPE HERE)

[illegible]

**This Is the Kind of Human Being I
Hope You Will Grow Up to Become...**

In this letter you share the vision you had for your child before he or she was born. Tell him or her what they can do or how they can live their lives to make you proud of them.



Some good words to text message...

Don't be selfish;
don't be greedy.
There should be enough
to go around for everyone.



Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
This is the kind of human being I hope you will grow up to become...

(TYPE HERE)



When I Was A Child, These Were Some of the Things I Worried About and Here is How I Came to Terms with Them...

Here is an opportunity for you to share an important piece of information with your child, that like them, you also had things that worried you and made you uncertain when you were young. Yes, some of these things were beyond your control, while others were things you had to make your peace with or resolve in order to become a more mature and capable person.

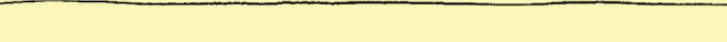



Every child, no matter how privileged or how well protected by a loving family, still worries about certain things—family, school, friendships, the future. Each has to struggle to find the best way to deal with these worries.

So, in this letter share with your child this aspect of your life and how you coped with and survived your many worries. Your example will help your son or daughter make their way, too.

Find something to believe in strongly, unhesitatingly.


Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...



Dear child,

When I was a child, these were some of the things I worried about and here is how I came to terms with them...

(TYPE HERE)



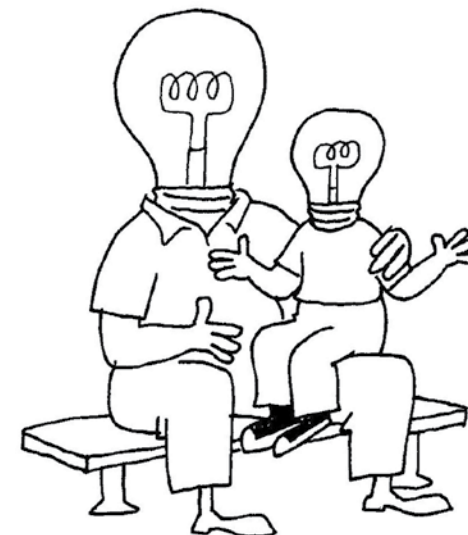


Writing Prompt

These Are A Few Things Which I Know for Certain...

Yes, we often go through life with so many doubts and questions. We search constantly for answers. But at the same time, each of us has come to know or learn something special; each of us knows a special truth that comes from our gut or from our experiences. It may be something we realize instinctively or something which we have learned by trial and error.

Here is your chance for you to tell your son or daughter the truths, or nuggets of wisdom, which you know intimately and which resound in your heart.



Some good words to text message...



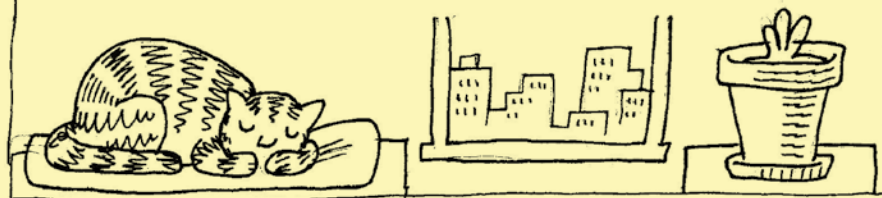
Fight the tigers
that eat away
at your soul.
Don't let them
defeat you.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
These are a few things which I know for certain...

(TYPE HERE)





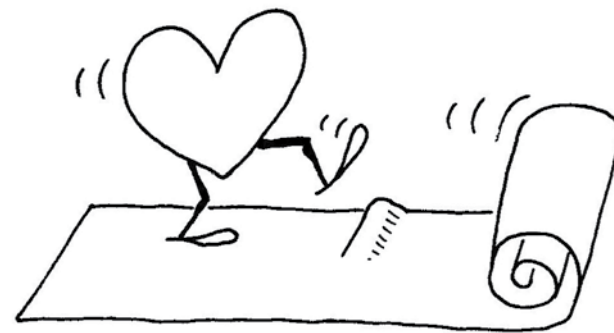


Writing Prompt

This Is How I Would Like You to Treat All People You Meet...

You want your son or daughter to be able to go out into the world and be treated with respect and kindness, even with love, by the people they cross paths with. But to be accorded such a welcome, your child must treat others in the same way.

Take a moment now to tell your child about the best ways he or she can get along with others. Here is where you can write about important things, like unselfishness, of kindness, of givingness, of the things that help people live in peace and harmony with one another.

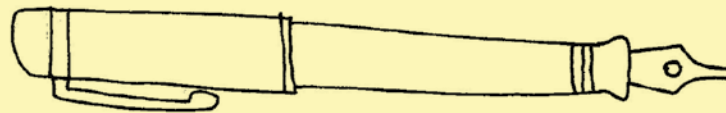




Make a leap of faith when necessary.
You never know what
you'll discover
by doing so.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
This is how I would like you to treat all people
you meet...

(TYPE HERE)

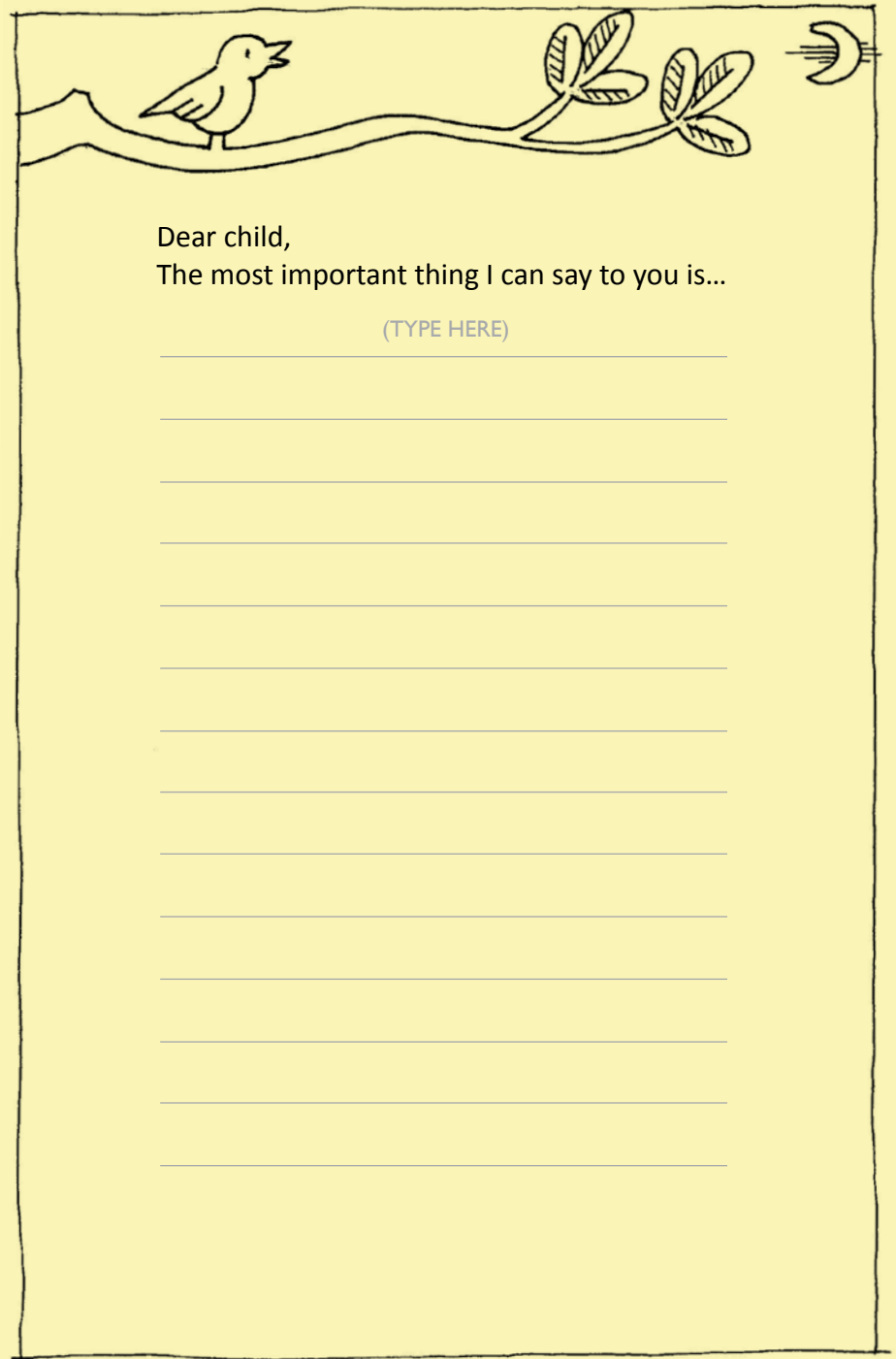
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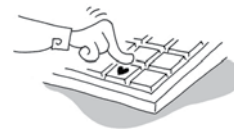
**Those Most Important Thing I
Can Say to You Is...**

Dear child,
This is how I would like you to treat all people you meet...

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes





Writing Prompt

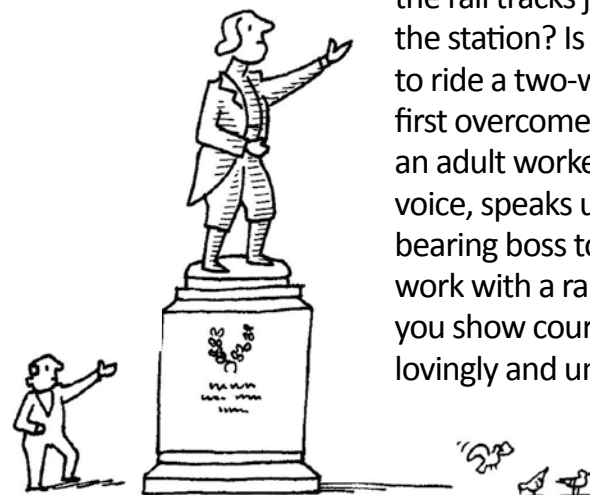
This Is How I Define Real Courage...

As wonderful as life is, it can also be frightening sometimes. Each of us, adult or child, constantly must confront our fears and find strength and courage so that our fears do not overwhelm our joy of living.


Courage is so personal. Is it the man jumping off a subway platform to rescue someone who falls onto

the rail tracks just as a train enters the station? Is it a child who wants to ride a two-wheeler but who must first overcome his fear of falling? Is it an adult worker who, with quaking voice, speaks up and asks an overbearing boss to reward her hard work with a raise or good word? Do you show courage when you care lovingly and unselfishly for a person

who is critically ill
even though you
are afraid of death?



No doubt you have your own definition of courage which you will want to share with your children. This is a subject worthy of a legacy message.



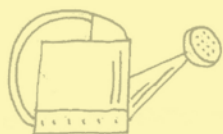
With time,
healing time, all things
can get better.

*your own
for your text*

(TYPE HERE)

[illegible]

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



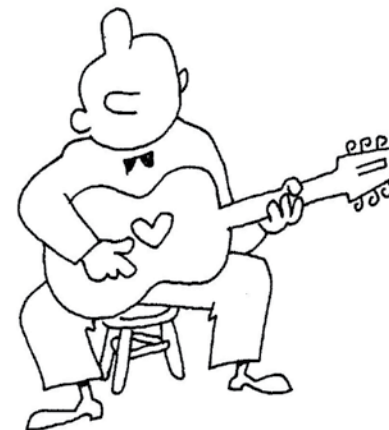


Writing Prompt

How to Beat the Blues...

No matter how good a life you imagine for your child, there will still come a rainy morning when your child, now grown and living on her own, finds herself feeling sad and alone.

Maybe she'll be worrying about a problem at work, or a love affair gone wrong, or a health issue. The blues, they come at times to all, even to our beloved children.



There are all kinds of ways to beat the blues—from listening to music, to cooking a comforting meal, to watching an old movie, or finding someone to hug and be with. There's also reading old letters sent to us by loved ones.

This is the letter to share with your child how you pick yourself up when you feel low, how you beat back the pain of sadness or what you do to bring a smile to your face. Tell your child your secret recipe to find joy when you feel gloomy.

Dear child,
This is how I define real courage...

Believe in
building things,
not destroying
them.



Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
This is how to beat the blues...

(TYPE HERE)

Some good words to text message...

Don't be afraid to show your love.
Love is never, ever

Love is never, ever

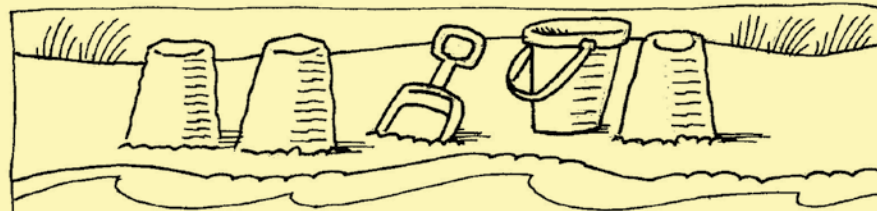
a sign of weakness.

It is strength.

th. Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...



Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
Not everything goes right all the time for any of us in life.
When it doesn't go quite the way you like, here's some
free advice about what to do...

(TYPE HERE)

A Few Quick Thoughts About Some Very Important Things...



About Honesty

About Humor

About Self-respect

About Respecting others

About A Higher Spirit

About Being Responsible

Laptop Letters 105

Strive to be better
than you are right now.
There always is a part of you
that can be strengthened
or even discovered.
You have no true idea
of your inner resources
until you stretch yourself.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
Here are a few quick thoughts about some very important things...(Choose the one(s) you want to write about: perseverance, love, believing in yourself, kindness, friendship, anger, economy, honesty, humor, self-respect, respecting others, a higher spirit, being responsible.)

(TYPE HERE)



These Are Some Things Which I Want To Go On Forever and Ever...

What if we could repeat time and again some wonderful experience we once had? What if we had the power to always recapture a special moment to keep it flowing and never diminish in intensity?

This legacy message is intended to share something which you love in life and will always do so. It represents something in your life that was meaningful and true to you, and which you want your child to know about. Maybe it was the moment after her birth when your eyes first gazed upon her. Or, maybe it was the time your daughter expressed her full love to you in words or actions.



Why shouldn't such wonderful moments go on forever—they are, after all, shining stars in your life that protect you. Let these beacons of light shine over your children, too, through the words of your message.

Some good words to text message...

Always do your best.
Even if you can't be
Number One,
try your best.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Dear child,
These are some things which I want to go on
forever and ever...

(TYPE HERE)

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



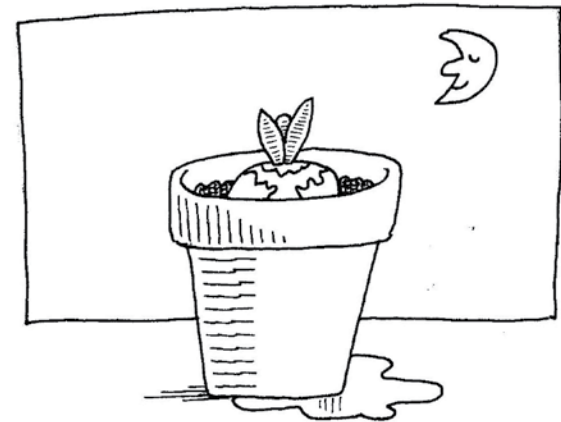


Writing Prompt

This Is A Dream I Have For The World...

Think ahead 50 years or 100 years from now. What kind of world do you want to imagine for your son or daughter or grandchild? What problems would you want to see resolved by that time? How has the quality of life improved? What progress has been made in making the world better, in making people healthier and happier?

By sharing the dream you have for the world, you plant a seed in your child's mind that perhaps she, working along with others, can help make your dream come true. Reveal your grand vision for the world in which so many wonderful things will be possible.



Some good words to text message...



Trust yourself.
Go with your
feelings, but
temper them
with your good
thinking.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Dear child,
This is a dream I have for the world...

(TYPE HERE)

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



These Are The Wishes I Have For You...

Think carefully about whether you will be
a taker in this world, or a giver.
Try to be one of the

Try to be one of those who puts back some

puts back something
into the world.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
These are the wishes I have for you...

(TYPE HERE)

[illegible]

My Very Favorite Memory of You...

Laptop Letters 121

Some good words to text message...

Fear not
to show your feelings.
But think twice about giving
off anger. Make your anger work
for you constructively and give
you energy to right a wrong and
not to frighten others away.
We all need each other.

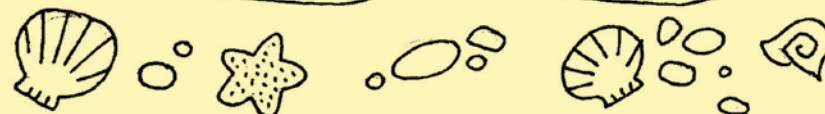


Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
My very favorite memory of you is...

(TYPE HERE)



I Want to Share This Secret With You...

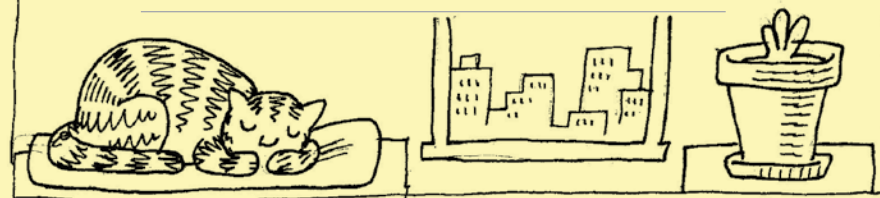
Maybe it's a story about your first date or kiss.
Maybe it's about a deep fear you used to have and
how you slowly overcame it.

Laptop Letters 125

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

(TYPE HERE)



**A Family Tradition or Ritual Which I
Would Like to See Carried On...**

Laptop Letters 129

Some good words to text message...

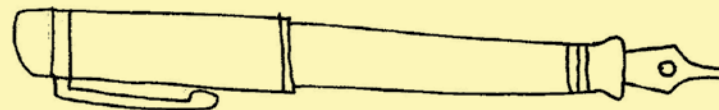
Take pleasure
in the tiny
miracles that
enter your
day. Reflect
on them.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...



Handwritten letters 'L' and 'E' on lined paper.

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
A family tradition or ritual which I would like
to see carried on is ...

(TYPE HERE)

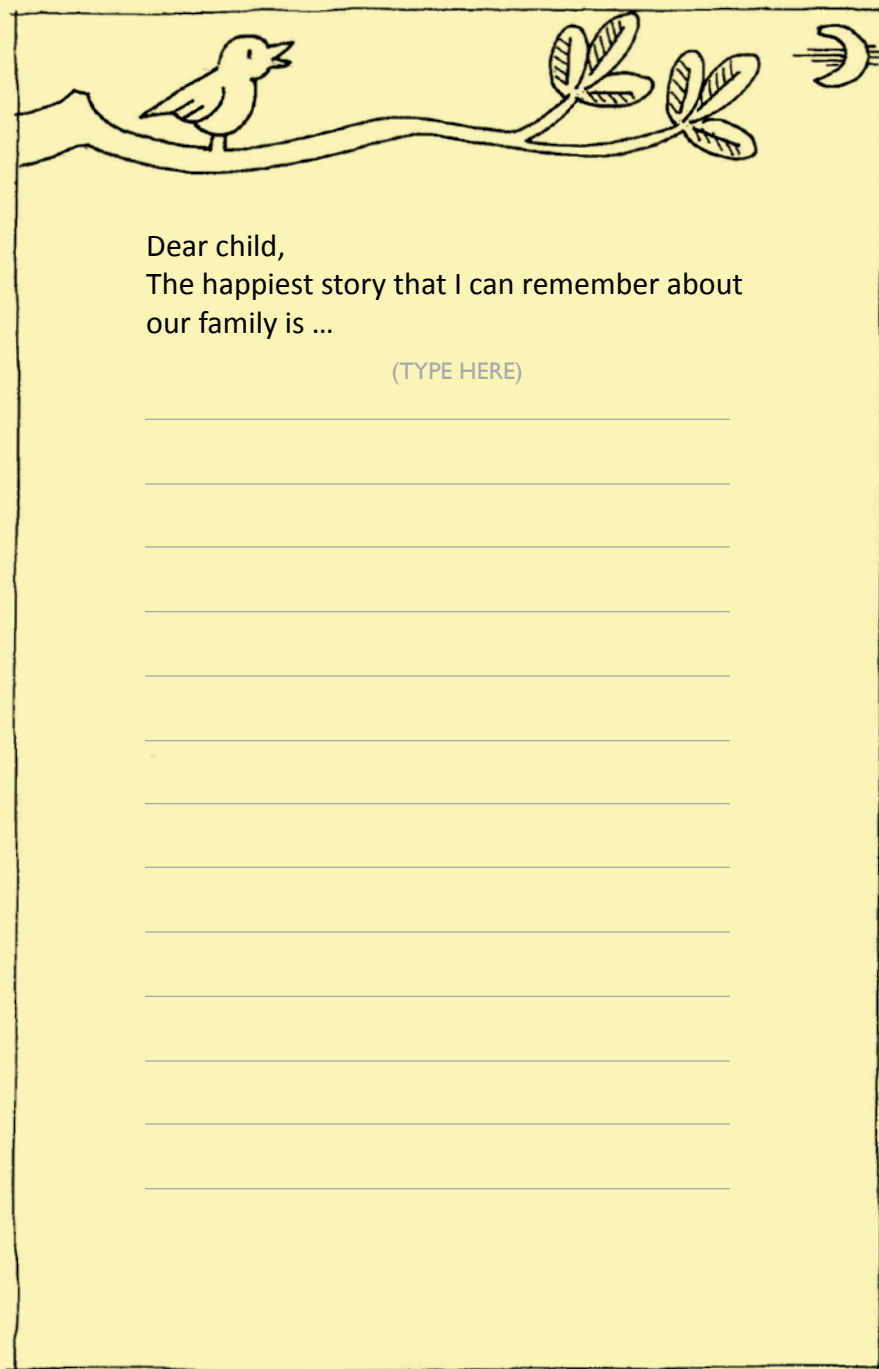
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Some good words to text message...



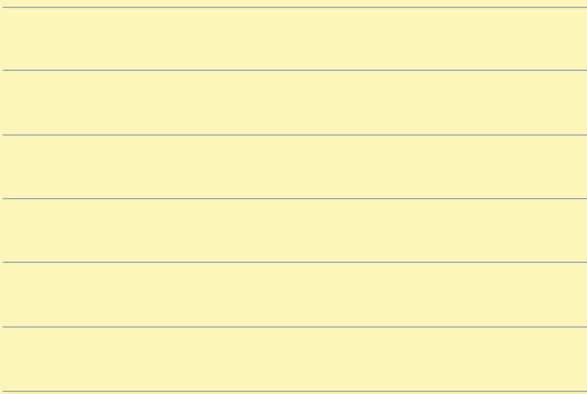
Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



This Is the Memory I'd Choose to Take Into Eternity With Me...

Share it with a child you love.




Some good words to text message...

BE KIND.
Above all, be kind.
There is so much pain
in our world.



Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

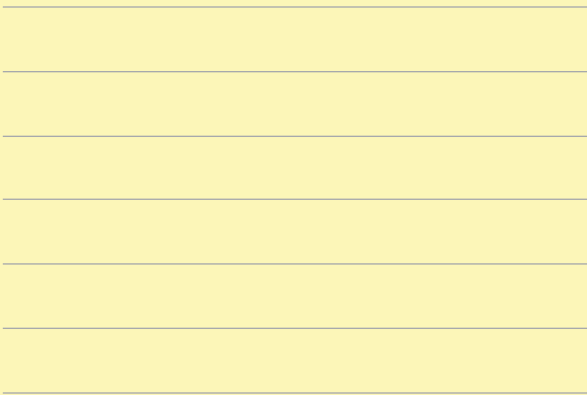


Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
This is the memory I'd choose to take into eternity
with me...

(TYPE HERE)





This Is What I Have Learned About Hate and Anger Which I Wish to Pass Along to You...

Yes, anger sometimes has its use, such as to propel us to act to right a wrong. But sometimes anger also causes us to strike out at someone and

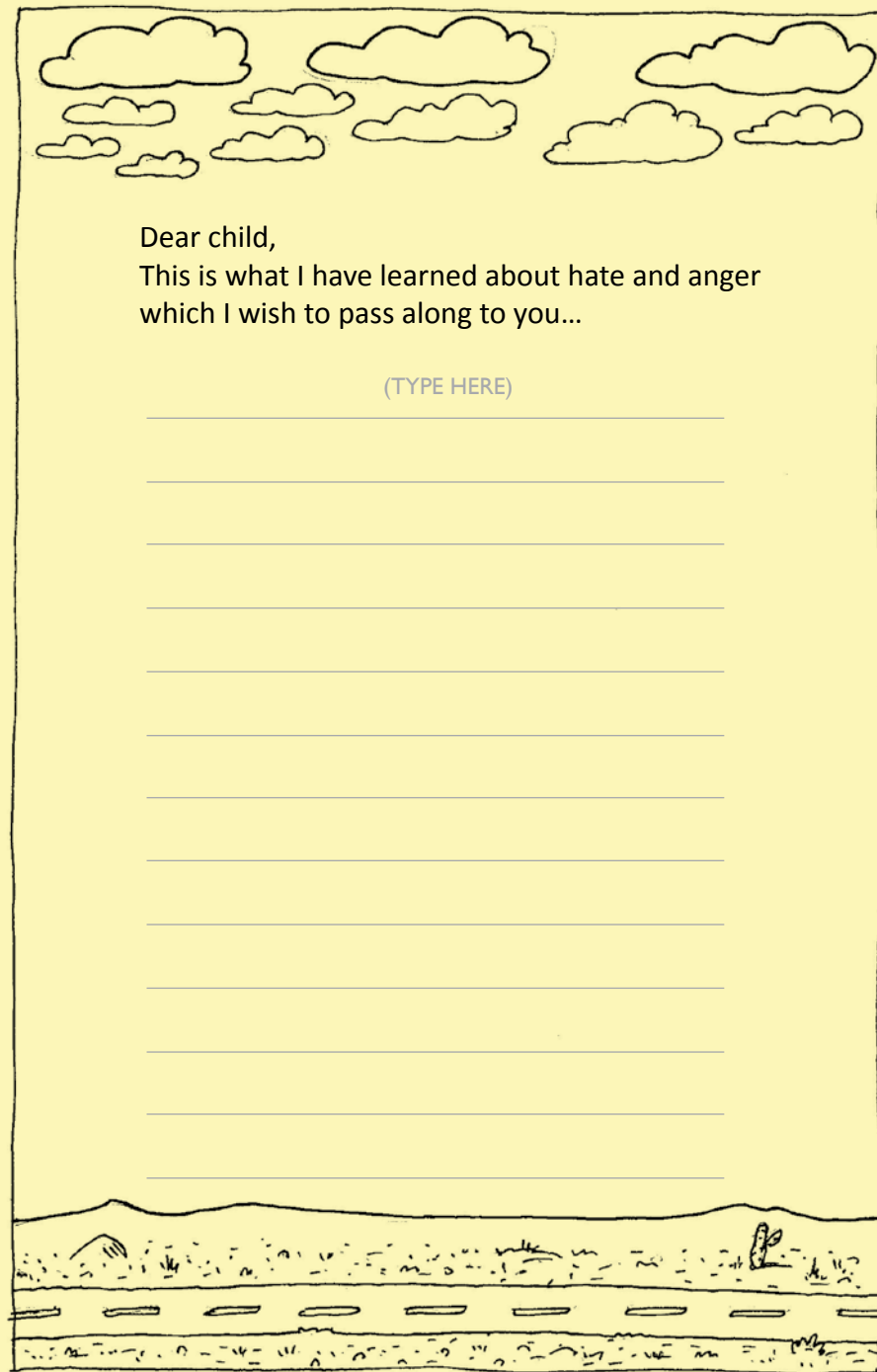
hate and anger with your child. Discuss how you deal with these feelings, and about the things you have done to not allow anger to consume your life. Write, if you can, about the role of forgiveness and understanding. Don't be afraid to tackle this important subject.

Some good words to text message...



Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



What I Love Most About Life...

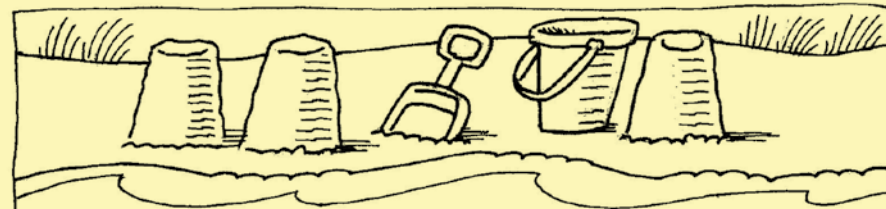
Some good words to text message...



Recreate
and
reput
yourself
regularly.

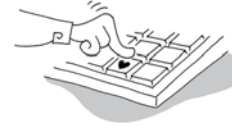
Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
What I love most about life is (are) ...

(TYPE HERE)



Writing Prompt

These Are the Things that Make Me Pause and Wonder. Do They Do that to You, Too?

Our days can be marked by little surprises or acts of kindness. Maybe it's something that came out of the blue and delighted you or made you smile. Maybe it's something beautiful or amazing that you saw or heard for the first time. All these are acts of wonder that make life more delightful.



Share them with your child—he or she will take pleasure in them, too.

Keep a photo of someone you love
in your wallet and look at it
from time to time.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

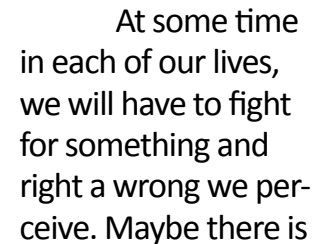
Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

(TYPE HERE)



What You Should Fight For With All Your Being...

help others who have not had the opportunities that you have had or who feel powerless.



This is the letter to teach your child about the things worth standing up for.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

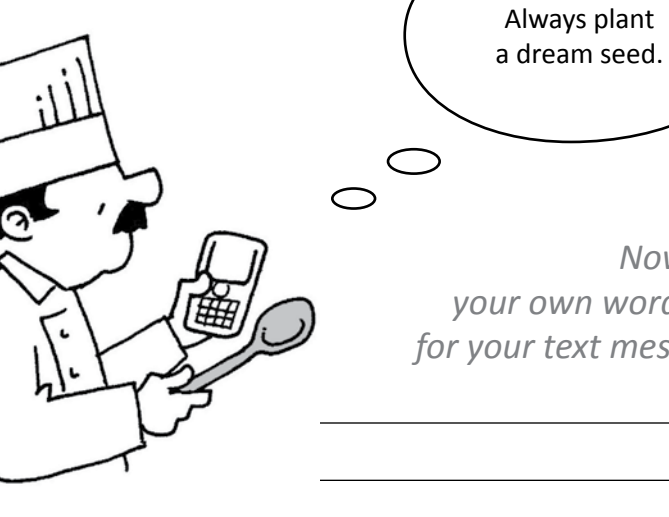
(TYPE HERE)

These Are the Values by Which I Have Tried to Live My Life And They Are Ones Which I Hope You Will Think About, Too...

Everyone needs to believe in certain things which will remain constant in life and keep us centered, even when the earth sometimes moves too quickly under our feet. These values shape the way we interact with others and lead our lives and help us from losing our way.

In this letter share with your child your key values and beliefs—both the ones which were handed down to you and which you incorporated into your own life, as well as the ones you came to discover for yourself. Your values are a legacy worth sharing.





Always plant
a dream seed.

*Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...*

(TYPE HERE)

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



**Here Is A Family Legend or Story
Which I Pass Onto You...**

A simple line drawing of a woman with short hair, wearing a dark sweater with a white collar, sitting and using a laptop. She is looking down at the screen.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
Here is a family legend or story which I pass onto you...

(TYPE HERE)

[illegible]

These Are A Few Things Which I Am Not Sure About and Still Trying to Come to Grips With...

A black and white line drawing of two men in traditional Chinese clothing carrying a large key. The man on the left is holding the handle of the key, while the man on the right is supporting the shaft. The key is oversized, with its head being a large, simple circle and its shaft extending horizontally.

Now is the time for you to share with those whom you love the problems and issues with which you are still struggling. Doing so will inform your child that she, too, will grapple with important questions all of her life. Perhaps, too, by sharing your questions, you will receive some guidance or partial answers from your children.

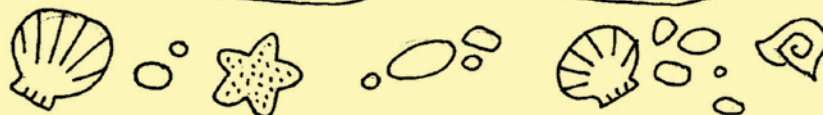
There is always some rain in life,
but eventually the clouds
do move and the
sun returns.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
These are a few things which I am not sure
about and still trying to come to grips with...

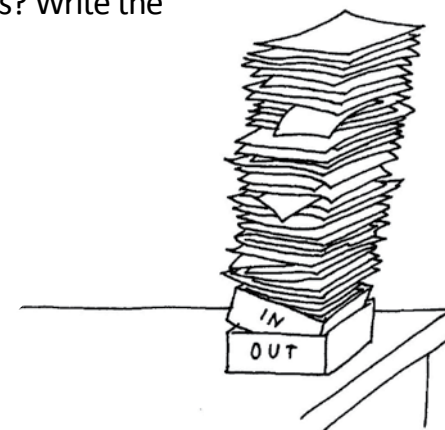
(TYPE HERE)





On What's Truly Important in Life...

What, then, do you think is the most important thing you have learned from life that you want to impart to your children so that they don't waste a precious moment of their lives? Write the truth you know.



Some good words to text message...

(((Always have dreams
and hopes to ease
your journey.)))

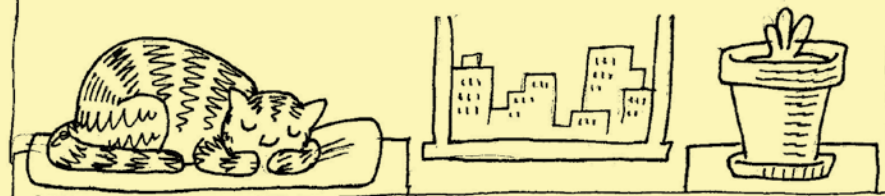


Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Dear child,
Here's what is truly important in life...

(TYPE HERE)

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

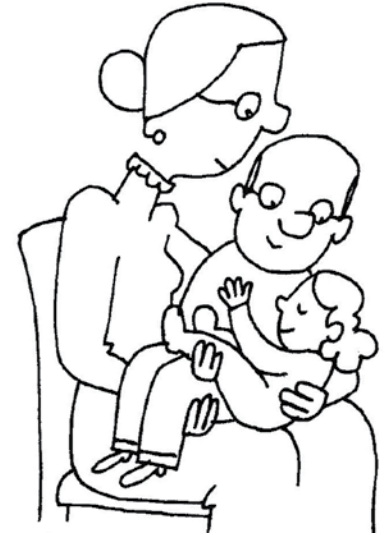




Writing Prompt

What Being A Parent, Grandparent or Caregiver Has Meant to Me...

My own daughter means the world to me. I feel steadier and happier knowing she is part of my life. Fathering her, and being around her when she was tiny and growing, also gave me a chance to revisit my childhood, but to do so in a way that gave me much more happiness than I experienced when I was a child. She gave me a chance to play in a way I had never played, to share with her all the things I love in life. My daughter brought laughter and joy to my life. She gave me a chance to be a better person, to become more generous and less selfish.



Here then is a letter where you write about what helping to raise a child has brought to your own life and how you changed. The child in your life will be interested in learning what she or he has meant to you.

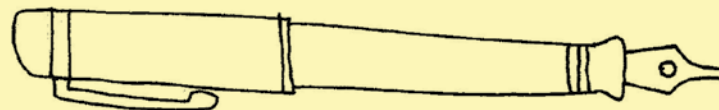
Some good words to text message...



You can jump over
that hurdle if you set
your mind to it.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

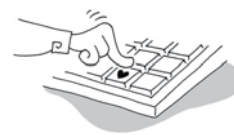
Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
This is what being a parent, grandparent
or caregiver has meant to me...

(TYPE HERE)

[illegible]

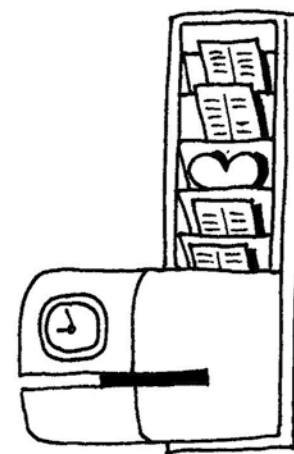
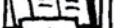


Writing Prompt

What I Have Learned About Work and Money...

Work makes up such a big part of our life. It can provide great personal fulfillment as well as give us the wherewithal to lead decent lives. Yet it can also drain us and cause us to sacrifice other parts of our lives, such as by preventing us from spending enough time with those whom we love or to rest and restore ourselves. For many, there also is a limit on how much money can do in terms of fulfilling all their needs or filling them up.

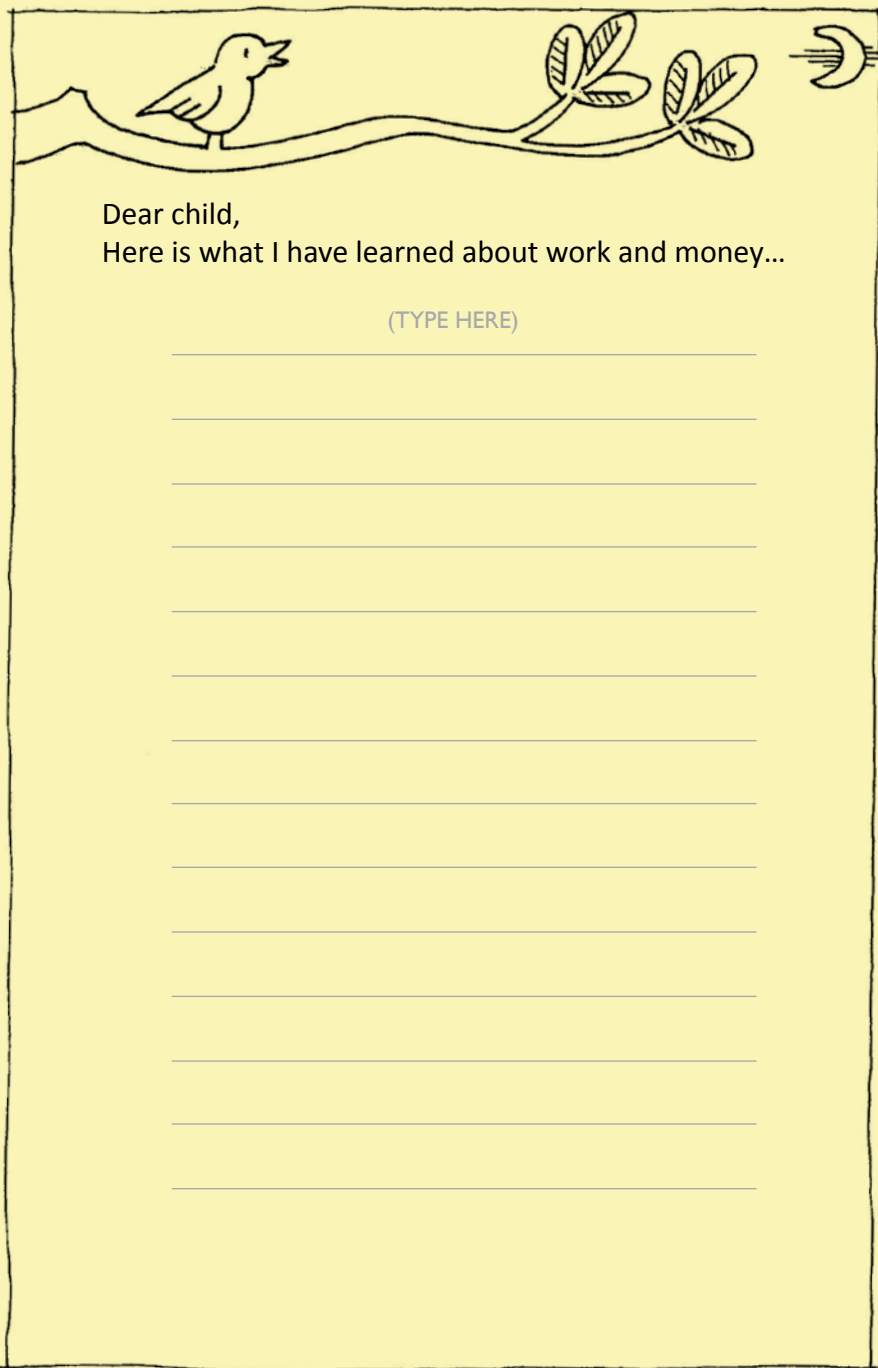
What are your own thoughts about work and about acquiring and handling money? What advice can you offer to your child?



Find a flower
to smell or
catch the
sunlight in
your hands.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes





The Legacy or Gift that Was Given to Me And Which I Pass on to You...

It is something we receive from others and which we, in turn, want to give to our children. Maybe it is something tangible such as property or a heirloom; maybe it's a set of values or way of living.

In this letter write about the precious gift you want to pass on to your son or daughter. Maybe what you convey is as simple as remembering a proverb or repeating what an elder relative once said to you—share the words you always remember.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

(TYPE HERE)



These Are Some of the Qualities You Will Need to Get You Through Life...

Write about the qualities you have tried to root in your child. Doing so will reinforce your effort.

Some good words to text message...

Look for a sacred spirit in yourself
and in the world around you.
It is there if you open your heart.
Don't be afraid to pray and seek.
Your cries can also be prayers.
So, too, your smiles and laughter.

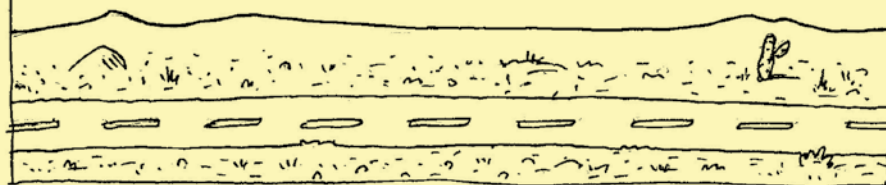


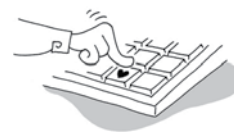
Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
These are some of the qualities you will need
to get you through life...

(TYPE HERE)

This image shows a single sheet of bright yellow paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Writing Prompt

Something Sacred That I Want to Share with You...

Each of us has beliefs that we hold sacred and inviolate. They give us the courage and support we desperately need as we undertake our difficult lifelong journey. This sacred thing may be our belief in God, or in the peace and awe we feel in the presence of nature. Perhaps this sacredness is revealed in the beautiful sounds of music that touch our hearts, that ease our pains and restore our souls. Maybe this sacred thing is the love that people show to one another.

In this letter, write about what you hold sacred, what you revere. This will help your child come closer to understanding what he or she holds holy, too.



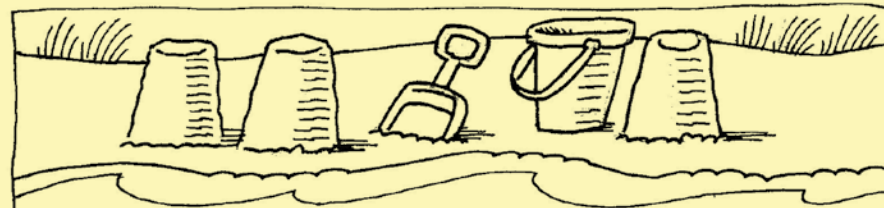
Some good words to text message...



There is both a dove
and a lion within you.
Release the one you
need now.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes



Dear child,
There is something sacred that I want to share with you...

(TYPE HERE)

[illegible]



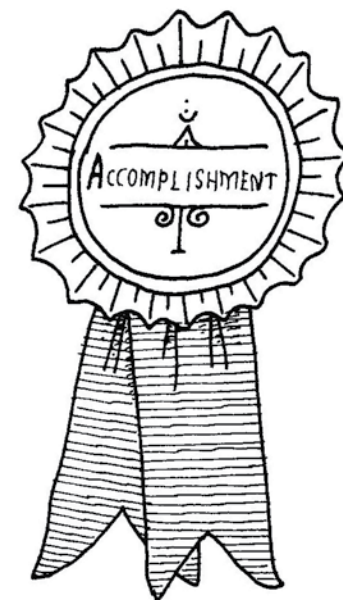


Writing Prompt

What I Have Tried to Accomplish with My Life...

Each of us wants to have a sense of mission in life, a belief that we have tried to use our limited, precious time on Earth as well and as usefully as possible. We hope that we will have somehow contributed to the good of humankind.

This letter, then, is an opportunity for you to share with your child what you have tried to accomplish in your life or your work. Write about the things you have thought to be the most important to you as a human being, or as a parent, or as a worker. By writing this letter, you encourage our own child to live their lives meaningfully, too.



Some good words to text message...



Listen to the
songs and
poetry playing
inside you.

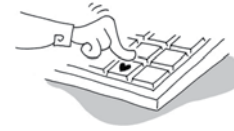
Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
This is what I have tried to accomplish with my life...

(TYPE HERE)

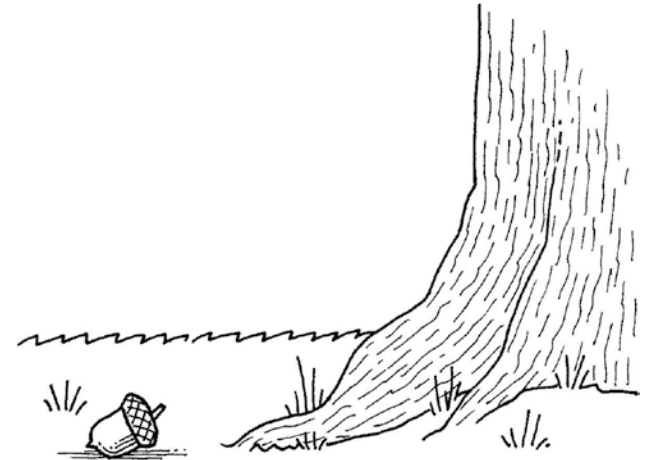




Writing Prompt

How I Would Like for You to Honor My Memory...

When we have children in our lives, whether as parents, grandparents, caregivers or as teachers, we also hope that a part of us will become immortal, that our spirits will be incorporated in our children and linger on in the world. We want to be remembered, and we hope that our children will do honor to us in the way they choose to live their lives.



In this legacy letter, try to express to your children how they can honor your memory in the way they will conduct their lives or by the deeds you hope they will perform.

A simple line drawing of a woman with short, dark hair, wearing glasses and a light-colored top. She is holding an open book and looking down at it with a focused expression. The drawing is minimalist, using only black outlines on a white background.

May all creatures be safe
and loved and free
from suffering.

Now, type
your own words here
for your text message...

Use this page for writing your "legacy" notes

Dear child,
This is how I would like for you to honor
my memory...

(TYPE HERE)





Some Sample Letters to Inspire You...





Dear reader,

Here follow some words which I address to young people. I have included these sample letters to give you help and encouragement in composing your own special messages. Always write your own truth and what you think will be meaningful and relevant to you own child. There is no formula other than writing what is deepest in your heart.

- B.Z.



Remember These Words

Dear daughter,

Every time you try your best, I am proud of you. Every time you are kind and unselfish to others, I am proud of you. Every time you work hard to master a problem, no matter how difficult or how discouraged you may feel, I am proud of you. Every time you hold your anger in check and try to work out a solution to what hurts you, I am proud of you. As much as I wish to, I can't be with you all the time to say these things, so you must try to remember what I have said. In this way, my voice and my pride are always within you.

With all my heart,
Mom



Some Wishes For My Child

If I could I would never allow pain to enter your life
If I could I would keep you in my pocket to make you feel safe
If I could I would plant seeds of joy in your soul
If I could I would make you believe that no hope is impossible to attain
If I could I would catch your sweet dreams and save them for you
If I could I would grow beautiful colored flowers that blossom for you in the snow
If I could I would borrow the songs of birds to give to you when you feel sad
If I could I would jump through hoops of fire to free you from dragons
If I could I would steal away all your doubts to bring a smile to your face.

With love,
Dad

Keep on Marching

Dear grandson,

I believe that in life we get second and third and even more chances. Sometimes we make mistakes and fail in our early attempts to reach a goal. Sometimes we just stumble. But that never means all is lost.



I know from my own experience, whether in working through a family problem or even losing a job, that there is always another chance to succeed -- that is, if we can pick ourselves off the floor and keep working toward the goal we have set. Maybe we'll need to take a different path to reach that goal, but inch by inch, step by step, we creep toward that elusive goal until it is right there before us -- and we finally grab it and make it

ours. Yes, it takes grit and tenacity to not allow failure to overtake us and sap our spirit. Just keep marching on and never look back!

*Love,
Grandpa*

A Father's Prayer

From far away I lay my hands on your head and bless you, my daughter. May the spirit of the universe, the spirit of nature love and protect you and strengthen your heart throughout your life. May only good things happen to you. I will always be with you.

Dad



There's No One Like You

Dear niece,

When you're feeling lost and isolated, hold on. Listen to the voice within you that says you are special, that no matter what people say of you, or do to you, they can't take away your good qualities.

Think about this for a moment: there is no other person like you on earth. There is no one who sees things the way you do, who thinks your thoughts, who feels the way you do. While we all share some things in common, each of us sees the world through our own lens, each of us has a particular sense of awareness that makes us who we are. That specialness is a gift you which you must treasure and be thankful for. Now, your job is to learn to live with yourself and take pleasure in and respect yourself.

Love,

Aunt Ann

*Advice I wish Someone Had Given Me and
Which I Share with You*

Dear son,

What is the advice and nurturing that I wished I had received from my father whom I lost so early? I would have liked for him or some other adult to tell me this:

Don't be afraid. You will be all right in life. Just have trust in yourself and each time, when you are afraid, reach deep within you to muster up the courage you need to overcome your fears.

Every human being is afraid at times, not just you, and each of us must fight to retain our humanity and courage. No one is exempt from this battle, no matter how pretty or handsome or smart or physically strong. Each of us must struggle with our life, for it is the struggle that forms us as human beings.

Even if I am not with you throughout your life, remember that my love for you accompanies you wherever you go. A father's love always is within his child and always will protect. My thoughts will always kiss you, my spirit will always hug and embrace you even if I am not physically there. Nothing, including absence, can ever destroy the love I have for you. My love is locked within you now; it can never be lost, it can never fade away.

*With so much feeling,
Dad*



You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet

Dear nephew,

Sometimes, son, when we find ourselves a little lacking, it might be a good time to look at our baby pictures to recall all the progress we have made in life—from taking our first steps to becoming the people we are today. Remember how you first had to learn how to crawl, then stand on shaky legs and learn to walk? Then you learned how to speak and make yourself known, then to read. All of these were monumental tasks when you first undertook them, but you accomplished them so well since the time the photos were taken. These are just the beginning of a long life of “firsts” and achievements that will make up your life in the many years ahead of you. Just remember that everything takes its own time to learn, so be patient with yourself as you master other new “firsts”.

*Love,
Uncle George*

Believe In Your Dreams

Dear Granddaughter,

Be true to your own internal vision. Believe in yourself no matter how often the world may reject your ideas. Your ideas and imagination are to be trusted—they belong to you and represent the best in you.

Yes, test your visions and ideas against reality, and be aware of the demands of the marketplace, but believe, too, that you can always muster support for your ideas if you are willing to fight for them with all your heart. Never, never, my father used to say, lose belief in your dreams. Never ever give up. All you have are your hopes and dreams, and if you surrender them, or allow someone to take them away from you or disparage them, then you will be lost.

*With love,
Grandma*

Sweet Blessing for a Child

*May your dreams be sweet when you sleep
May you always find time to leap with frogs
May you find treasures when you walk the
seashore
May you live to hold new life in your hands
May you one day ride to the moon
May you have a chance to swim with dolphins
May much of what you wish for
come true.*



Making the World A Little Better

Dear son,

Whatever you do in life, try to make the world a better place. Try to be kind to people who need you. You have much goodness in you to give others.

A funny thing about goodness and love - the more you give, the more comes back to you. You become richer in spirit. Child, there is so much pain in the world. You have it in you to make things better.

*With love,
Mom*



For Your New Life

Your father and I are so proud of the way you are establishing your new life on your own. You are becoming the young adult we always hoped you would be—responsible, hard-working and a loving, gentle person.

Be patient with yourself as you build your new life away from us. Life, in my experience, is a step-by-step process, some of the steps being easy, some harder. Sometimes we even have to rest a moment or two before going on.

Just remember, you are not alone. Your father and I are always there for you, and our love is ever-present.

We believe in you with all our hearts and know things will be well for you – and, of course, we're NEVER wrong!

*With a smile and hug,
Mother*

A Divine Mission

Sweet one, why do you think we were put here on earth? Do you think each of us has a divine mission to fulfill? I'd like to think so, to believe that there is a reason for our lives that is tied up with making the world a beautiful place to live.

Grandma



Words to Encourage You on Your Journey

Dear daughter,

I know there will be days when you will wake up feeling overwhelmed by all that you have to do—so many pressures upon you. You may realize that you just don't have all the answers. I know this feeling, I have felt that way, too, at times.

When you feel like this, pause for a moment. Then reach down deep within you and you will find all the strength that resides within you—you showed that strength to me all the years I was with you while you were growing up. You must believe in yourself and in your goodness, as much as I believe in you. Just try to take things one step at a time, and you'll see, things will fall into place.

I am with you.

Love,
Dad



Time to Do Your Funny Monkey Dance

Dear child,

*Can you laugh at yourself?
Can you enjoy the foolishness in you once in a while?
Must you always take yourself so seriously? Aren't humans sometimes like the little chimpanzees you see at the zoo, scrambling and scurrying around, leaping into the air, tumbling and making silly sounds. They make you smile just thinking about them, don't they? They take you out of yourself and help you remember to be happy and silly and to try new things. Let your heart become a little lighter as you do your own funny monkey dance. Give yourself a chance.*

*With warmest thoughts,
Your teacher*

Be Strong Like a Gentle Labrador

Dear son,

When I was little I always worried whether I was macho enough. Did I have what it takes to be a man? Now, so many years later, I can say to you that it is not important to worry so. Just be yourself. The strongest people I know are those who are kind and gentle. It takes real strength to believe in yourself and to do the right thing with others.

Yes, you can play the game and swagger or speak gruffly if you feel you need to, but deep inside be a gentle labrador—they're really the best because they have good souls and are the strongest.

Dad



What Is Courage?

Courage is a funny thing, daughter.

You never know if you have it in you until the time comes when you need it. But don't worry too much about how courageous you are—just try to do the right thing when the situation arises, when you see the need to help someone or to work out a reasonable solution to a hard problem. You don't have to be a super hero to show courage—all you have to do is be true to yourself and do your best.

Sometimes the most courageous acts seem to be the simplest ones, such as overcoming your fear of someone different from you and trying to help that person, or trying to master a new skill which you didn't think you are capable of or were, at first, too afraid to learn. It's a matter of forging on even when you're least sure of yourself.

When I was young, perhaps the most courageous thing I did was to overcome my fears and help care for my father in his last days. He was separated from my mother and lived apart from us, and I would visit him after school after he came out of the hospital to keep him company. I was afraid to be with him because he was so weak and frail and because he was so different from the strong, healthy man I had known years earlier. I was so afraid I would lose him and it upset me to see him so weak. But I saw he needed me and I overcame my fears to help him. Helping him helped me become less afraid. And I am glad to have made a difference for him.

*Lovingly,
Dad*

Love Makes You Leap

Dear son,

When you find a person you love or care deeply about, you must leap for joy for you will find your heart growing bigger as you discover the fullness of both your natures. Love means giving of your heart and soul to another, of showing respect and gentleness to another. Love never means taking over another person or bossing them around, just as you can never really own a flower. Yes, you can nourish that flower with your love, you can admire all its beauty and splendor and gasp at its loveliness. But you cannot pluck it and hoard it just for yourself. If you do, it will shrivel and waste away. Love and affection mean sharing what you have to offer with another person who will do the same for you. And by doing so, you will both grow stronger and happier.

With love,
Dad



Querida,

This is what I believe:

I believe that hope is with us forever.
I believe in the healing sunshine.
I believe in the wild and loving
heart that beats in each of us.
I believe in rainbows.
I believe in the narcissus that bravely
blooms in cold winter.
I believe in music and laughter and song.
I believe that things always get better
if we want them to.
I believe in the kindness of people
that waits to come out.
I believe in myself.
You must believe in yourself, too.

With carino,
Ma

Keeping Hope Alive

Dear daughter,

I believe that no matter what bad things we are handed in life, we need to keep hope alive in our hearts. We have to believe that things will get better and we must be prepared to work to get things moving our way.

If we cave in to whatever hurt or suffering each of us inevitably will experience over the course of our life, we lose then the chance to find happiness. Hope is like a little birthday candle which we must cup with our hands to prevent the wind from blowing out. If we have hope, then we can do anything in life.

Lovingly,
Dad

Finding Your Passion

Dear child,

If you want to have the fullest, best life possible, then find your passion and go for it. Find the work or interest you can take pride in and which fully engages your imagination and your heart. Too many people are told to be practical and to give up their dreams for something less. But passion, in my book, is what counts. Maybe you won't make a ton of money, maybe every step you take to realize your passion will be hard. But you will be a content person, not getting lost in "what could have been."

Do you know people who had to settle in life? What do their sad faces tell you? Passion for something you love will always get you through the hard times—that's how powerful it is. May you find your passion, the thing that you were meant to do in life.

With love,
Grandpa



More To Think About

Dearest daughter,

Never take for granted the beauty and wonder of the world. There is a reason why it was put here for us to behold. Stand outside and look for a moment at the light of the sun. Go to the beach and watch the wide ocean, wave after wave after wave. Feel the breeze on your face. Smell the freshness of the air. Listen to the sounds of a sea shell. Smell a beautiful flower. Then wonder how all these beautiful, wonderful things came to be. What was the reason for them? Wonder how you came to be—and all the other people. Think of what role you will play in the world. Think of the Spirit, the Force Which created our universe, and stand in awe at its mystery and majesty. That Force is greater than all of us put together. Where do we fit into the grand scheme of things? Think big things, daughter, for you must try to measure up to the wonder of our universe. Be the best you can be. Be the kindest you can be. Be the lovingest you can be. Match yourself to what God created for us.

With all my love,
Dad

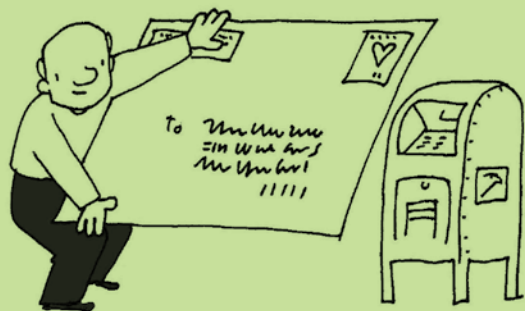
Giving Can Also Fill You Up

Dear son,

Look around you. You'll find some people are takers, others are givers. The "takers" are always hungry for something—love, power, food, possessions. The "givers" are the providers, the nurturers, the unselfish ones. We all have a little of each in us, but deep down I hope you'll be more of a giver in life. You see, there is so much pain and need in the world. Our job is to do the best we can to make the world a little better than when we found it.

A funny thing about giving—the more you give, the more ultimately comes back to you. Isn't it wonderful to see someone who has been able to grow a little stronger and happier because of your kindness and support to them? Imagine what kind of world we'd have if everyone reached out to someone else?

With love,
Dad

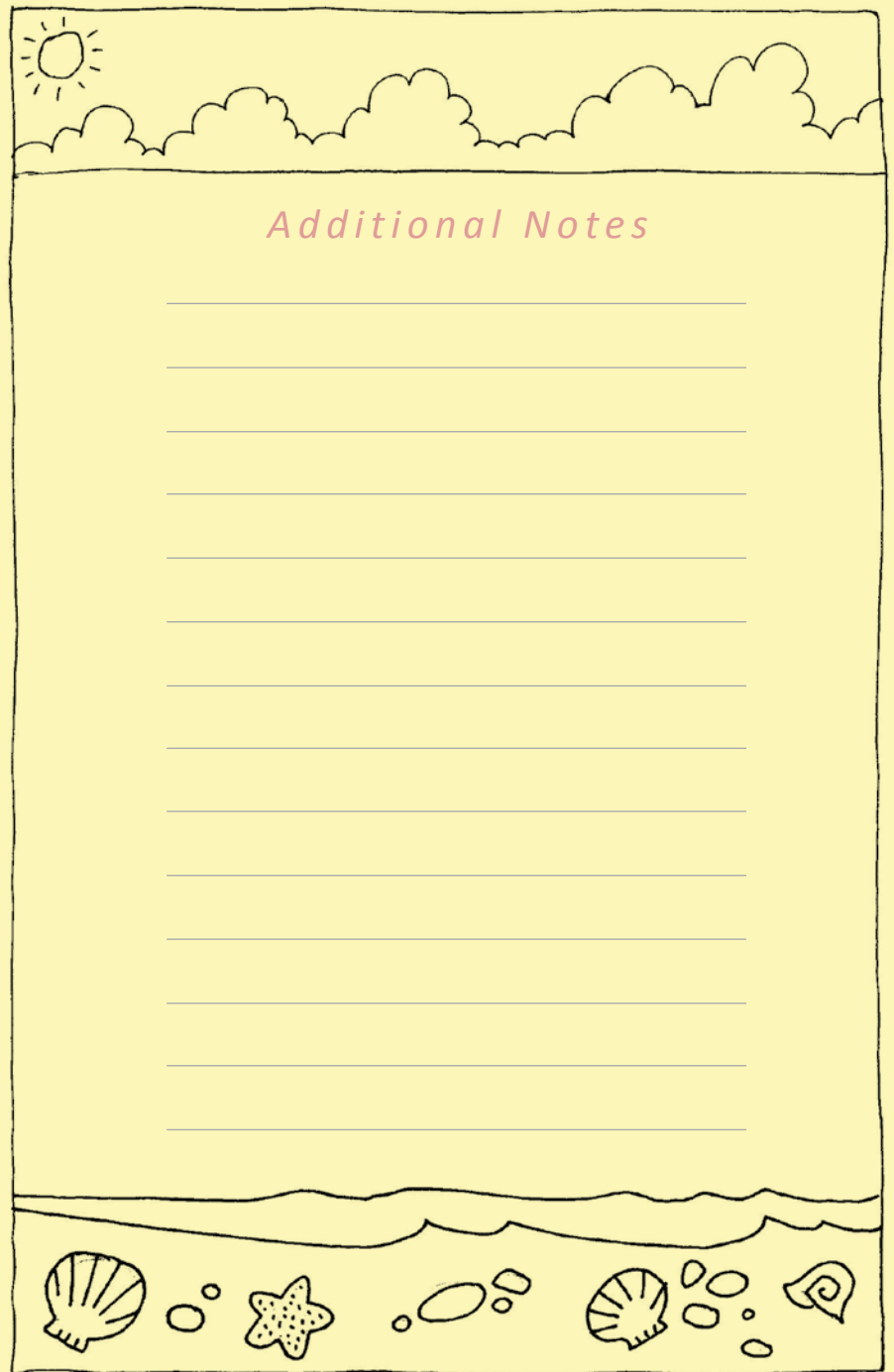


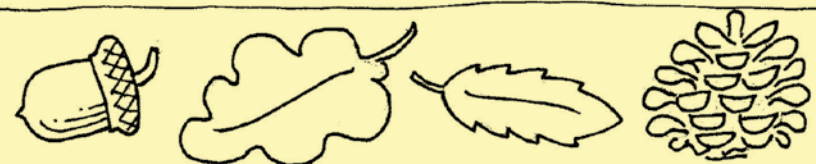
It Pays to be Stubborn

Dear son,

Sometimes being stubborn is a good thing, despite what others may say. By that I mean taking an attitude that you won't give up in trying to achieve your goal—even if people say that you're crazy or it's impossible. Some times you just have to fight for your dreams to come true. I remember being told many times in my life not to do certain things, but I refused to listen and needed to try new things. Sometimes I failed, but I learned from my mistakes. Nothing lost here. You use your perseverance to stay in the game as long as you can. Sometimes, though, you reach a goal by taking smaller steps, rather than great leaps. You approach that goal over a period of time and you use your orneriness to keep you going and focused on your goal. Your hard work will pay off, I promise you.

Lovingly,
Dad





[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of bright yellow paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly textured appearance and is set against a dark background.

About the Author

Much of Bill Zimmerman's work as an author has been to draw family members closer together and share their memories, stories and love for one another. His work on creating family oral histories has been featured on The Today Show, PBS' The Ancestor Project Series and in The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, Family Circle and Business Week.

A prize-winning editor and journalist, Bill for many years was a senior editor at Newsday newspaper where he created a nationally syndicated educational feature for young people that was twice nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.



His books include: *How to Tape Instant Oral Biographies*; *Lunch Box Letters: Writing Notes of Encouragement to Your Children*; *My Paper Memory Quilt: A Family History Kit*; *My Life: An Open Book*; *Pocket Doodles for Kids*; *Pocket Doodles for Young Artists*; *Your Life in Comics: 100 Things for Guys to Write and Draw*; *Doodles and Daydreams: Your Passport for Becoming An Escape Artist*; *100 Things Guys Need to Know*; *Butterfly Wishes*; *Dogmas: Simple Truths from a Wise Pet*; *Cat-e-Chisms: Feline Answers to Life's Big Questions*; *Make Beliefs: A Gift for Your Imagination*; *Make Beliefs for Kids of All Ages*; *A Book of Questions to Keep Thoughts and Feelings*; *A Book of Sunshine*; *LifeLines: A Book of Hope*; *Idea Catcher for Kids*, and *The Little Book of Joy*.

Bill Zimmerman's web sites are: <http://www.billztreasure-chest.com> and <http://www.makebeliefscomix.com>. The latter site enables visitors to create their own online comic strips and is used in literacy programs around the world to encourage writing, reading and storytelling. Please visit.



About the Illustrator

Tom Bloom is an artist who has brought joy to the world with his cartoons and illustrations which have appeared in many publications, such as The New York Times, The New Yorker, Fortune and Barron's. He has collaborated with Bill Zimmerman on many other books.

Share With Us

Your feedback on using this book about writing legacy messages to children is very welcome.

Please be encouraged to send your thoughts or suggestions on how we can improve this book, including new writing topics, along with your permission for us to use your ideas. For every idea used, a free copy of



this book will be sent to you. Perhaps you will even want to share with us one of the special letters you wrote for a child in your life.

Send to:
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New York, NY 10024
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LAPTOP LETTERS

Sending Wise & Loving Messages to Young People in Your Life

Bill Zimmerman

Think how much it can mean for a young person or adult to receive an emailed message from a parent, grandparent or caregiver that begins with these words, "This is what I want from the depths of my heart for you" or "This is what you mean to me." If you were the recipient, wouldn't you keep and treasure such words for the rest of your life?

This book helps you do something very special for your children or grandchildren—to pass on to them some of the important things in your heart that you want to share. Using your computer, send messages of love and wisdom to your children on an ongoing basis, even as they mature into young adults. This is a way to hand down your family legacy. Inside are writing prompts for composing important, loving messages, separate pages to make notes about what you want to say, and sample letters to inspire you.

Bill Zimmerman is the creator of the best-selling **Lunch Box Letters: Writing Notes of Love and Encouragement to Your Children**.



ISBN 978-3-16-148410-0



A PARENTING/GRANDPARENTING BOOK

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