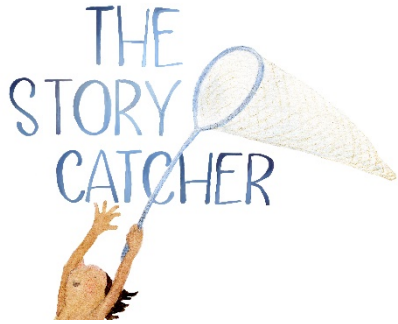


How to Catch a Story



Storytelling is part of the magic behind the Carousel of Happiness. Scott's and so many other stories enrich the carousel experience in ways only stories about our humanity can. Wonderful, untold stories are all around us, and inside you. The carousel invites riders to take a moment to share their own unique stories with friends or family in our professional-quality Story Catcher sound booth. Your stories are precious. Now is the best possible time to share them.

A great story can be about almost anything. Often they come as answers to questions. What have you often wondered about your friends, parents, grandparents, children? Although most people don't know this, everyone wants to tell their stories. They just have to be invited.

Here's How to Catch a Story

- Decide on who you want to interview.
- Make a list of questions, starting with the most important (Some examples are on the back of this sheet.) You'll have only 20 minutes of recording time, so about six questions might be enough.
- It's a good idea to share your questions with your partner before the interview so that he or she might have time to think about how to respond.
- Turn off your mobile phones before you enter the booth unless you want to make a video of your interview. (A phone holder is provided for that.)
- Ask open-ended questions that can't be answered by "yes" or "no."
- Relax and speak from the heart. Remind your partner that there are no wrong answers.
- Begin your interview with each of you introducing yourselves, giving your names and ages and your relationship to each other. Then say the date and place where you are making this recording.
- Listen closely and ask follow-up questions. The more detail you can get, the richer your story will be.
- Keep track of time. Remember, the USB drive will only record for 20 minutes.
- Be sure to thank your partner at the end of the interview and let him or her know what the interview meant to you.
- Take a photo of the two of you by the booth if you wish.

Great stories don't have to come from interviews. Remember, you can tell a story by yourself and pretend you're talking to someone you know. If you are recording alone, write down the topics you want to cover so you will be ready when the recording light turns on.

-OR-

- You can make up a pretend story.
- Read your little one his favorite book so that he will always be able to listen to it in your voice.
- Sing a song.
- Read a poem.
- Make up a new way to use the Story Catcher. We dare you!

HAVE FUN!

Tips for Preparing your Questions

Prepare a list of about six questions: You'll find a list of great questions inspired by StoryCorps® below. But before you read them, try to write one or two questions yourself that you think would best inspire your partner to tell you a powerful story. You could start by asking about something you have always been curious about: "Grampa, how did you get that scar across your cheek?" OR if your parents immigrated to the United States from another country, "Mom, why did you and Dad leave the old country to come to America? Tell me all about that." OR, say your parent fought in a war that he or she never spoke about. "Dad, what was war like? What would you like for me to know about that?" The possibilities are infinite. **Follow your curiosity.**

You can also ask your partner what topics he or she would like to talk about and start there.

Some Great Questions Might Be...

- 1) Who has been the most important person in your life? Can you tell me about him or her?
- 2) What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest?
- 3) What is the greatest lesson that you have learned in life? How did you learn that lesson?
- 4) What is the most meaningful event or period that shaped who you are today?
- 5) Who has been the kindest to you in your life? If they were here, what would you say to them?
- 6) What is your favorite memory of me?
- 7) What are you proudest of, personally and professionally, in your life?
- 8) Can you tell me about the dumbest thing you ever did?
- 9) When in life have you felt most alone?
- 10) Tell me about the best friend in your life.
- 11) What advice would you give to your teenage self?
- 12) Tell me about the greatest love of your life.
- 13) How would you like to be remembered?
- 14) If time allows, ask toward the end of the interview: "Is there anything you wish I would have asked you, but didn't? Anything else that you really want me to know about you?"

A tip about listening: Sometimes the best story will be hiding inside an answer to an unrelated question. When you hear your partner say something he or she clearly feels strongly about, it's ok to break away from your list of questions and follow that subject to wherever it leads. For example, if you partner mentions ... "Susie, but that's another story," ask, "Who was Susie?"

And if you don't understand something your partner says, ask him or her to explain. **Don't be bashful. Remember, your partner really does want you to hear his or her story!**

HAVE FUN!