

## In Your Own Words

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### Tell Your Own Picture Stories

*These questions will help you explore your memories and write your story, one photograph at a time. The questions are just guidelines—you don't need to use them all—and may spur you on to think of others that I haven't included.*

*Tip: Write your answers in short paragraphs of no more than 3 or 4 sentences.*

**Questions? Reach out to me at [betty@iyowpublishing.com](mailto:betty@iyowpublishing.com)**

**I welcome your feedback!**

**Start with the easy questions:**

**1. Who's in the photo?**

*What are their names, ages, relationships to you?*

**2. Where was it taken?**

*If you don't know the exact location, tell what you do know or what you think you know.*

**3. When was it taken?**

*Was there a specific occasion or event?*

**4. Why was this photo taken?**

*Was it taken for a specific reason?*

**5. What about the setting is important or interesting?**

**These questions may help lead you into the story you want to tell:**

**6. Who do you think took the photo?**

*Was the person in the photo willing to be in it?*

**7. Who isn't in the photo but is nonetheless important to it?**

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*This may be the person who took the picture, someone else in the room, or even someone who's conspicuously absent.*

8. What was your relationship with the person in the photo?

*Describe in greater detail how you know this person and who they are to you.*

9. What do you know about him or her?

*Sometimes we know only a few facts, but have impressions that convey a lot of information.*

10. Do you have a memory that is perhaps unrelated to the photo but related to the person in it?

*A photo-story can be indirectly related to the image in the picture.*

11. Does the photo bring to mind a person or people who are not in the picture but who is/are somehow connected with that time and place?

*Sometimes a photo serves as a jumping off point that leads to another memory.*

12. Are there historical circumstances/events that may help give depth/context to the photo?

### **And, if you want to go a little deeper...**

13. What do you feel about the person in the photo?

*Was this an important personal relationship?*

14. How did you feel when the photo was taken?

*If it's a photo of you or if you took it, or if you were present when someone else took it, how were you feeling?*

15. How do you feel about the picture now?

*Discuss what you felt then compared with what you feel now.*

16. What do you know now about the person in the photo that you didn't know then?

*Time and distance offer perspectives that hold really interesting stories!*