

# Memories 'R Us

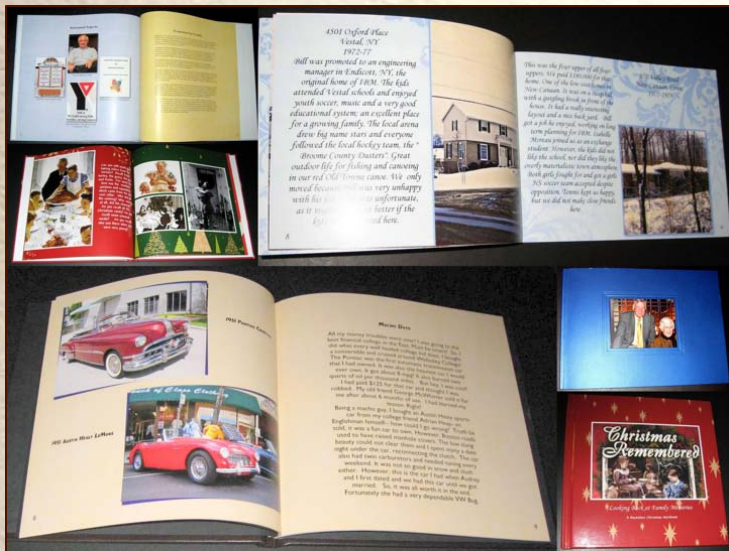
## Class One

Remembering and Sharing the Times of Your Life



A Backwhen.com Tutorial

# Welcome!



Memories are a way of holding on:

- to the things you love,
- to the things you are,
- to the things you want to keep

Our goal is to help you:

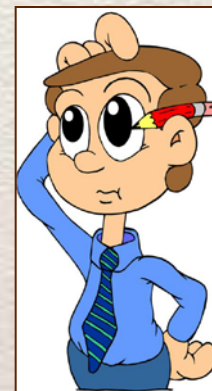
- Create
- Organize
- Write
- Preserve
- Share your special memories.

# Our Genealogy!

We Are Delighted To Find:

- An Old News Article About a Relative
- A Letter They Wrote Long Ago
- A Reference in an Old Bible
- A News Article About Their Life
- Even an Obituary

**But,** We Find Very Little Personal Knowledge



What Will Your Great Grandchildren Find?

- Just the Dash between your “b and d” Dates ?
- Four Paragraph Obituary
- Just What History Tells of Your Era?

**Or,** Your Loves, Laughs, Adventures and Way of Life?

# The Challenges We Face

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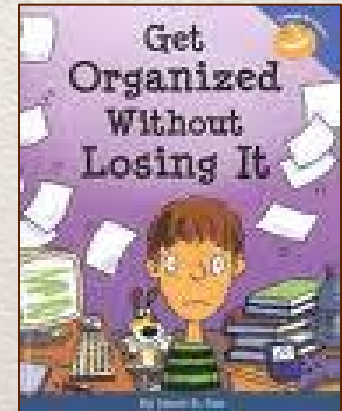
Most folks would love to share their memories and preserve their legacy, but face challenges:

# The Challenges

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Folks don't get started because they -

- Are overwhelmed with so many memories/photos
- Not sure they can remember enough
- They don't think they write well enough
- They are not sure the family is interested



Folks don't finish because -

- Without a plan, the project keeps expanding
- There is no due date: e.g. family gathering, event

# The Classes Will Cover:

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Class 1. Getting Organized

Class 2. Writing and Photo Tips

Class 3. Actions for Success (Grandkids!)

Class 4. Technical Workshop and Discussion

# Class 1: Getting Organized

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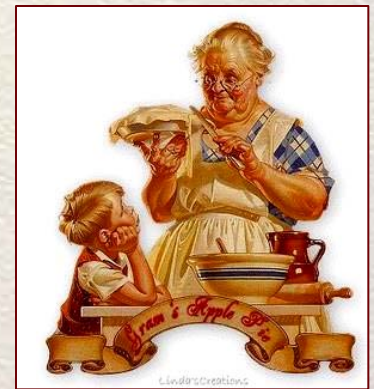
## Your Recipe For Success

Step A: Set Your Goals

Step B: Cherry Pick Your Topics

Step C: Organize Your Memories

Step D: Expand Memories with “Keywords”



# Step A. Set Your Goals

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- Who are you making this for?
- How do you want to affect your readers?
- Is this a monumental/heirloom project or a simpler, less weighty endeavor?

*"If you don't know where your going ,  
you won't know if you ever got there." Yogi Berra*

# Step A. Set Your Goals

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- To Create Family Roots and Bonds
- To Build Family Communications
- To Share and Pass on Experiences and Values
- To Remember and Honor a Spouse or Relative
- To Consecrate a Special Event or Time Period
- To Simply Enjoy Old Memories (“Fun” example)



*“If you don’t know where your going ,  
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# Step A. Set Your Goals

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Let's say your goal is just to have fun revisiting memories. In this case, you might choose a more lighthearted topic:

- *Romance?*
- *Favorite Music?*
- *Early School Years?*
- *Funniest people I've ever known*

# Goal: Fun

## Topic: Romantic Memories

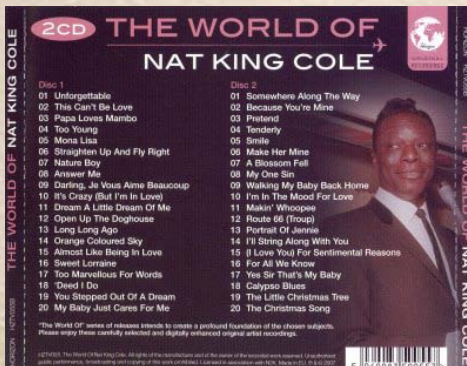
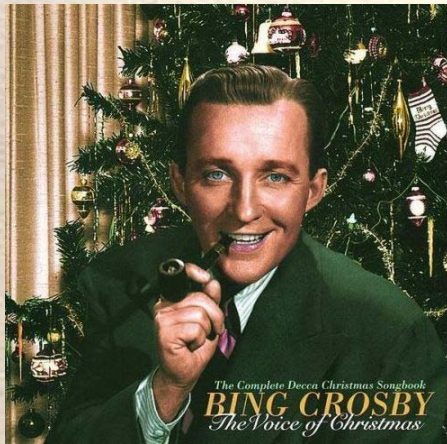


- First Crush/Broken Heart
- Name One Drive-In Movie
- Prom Night Problem



# Goal: Fun

## Topic: Music Memories



- Favorite Song?
- Where were you?
- Music, Then and Now?



# Goal: Fun

## Topic: First School Memories



- Best Friends?
- Favorite Activity?
- Embarrassing Moments?



# Step B. Pick Your Topics - Like Grapes

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## Our Story Selection Method:

- Think of your life story or your family's story as a vineyard (your goal)
- Grapes Come In Clusters - think of these as the topics
- Each Grape in the Cluster is a Small Story
- A Collection of Stories makes a topic
- Many Topics Make a Life Story

"We do not remember days; we remember moments." Cesare Pavese

# Step B. Pick Your Topics - Like Grapes

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- Let's say your Goal is To Communicate Values about fair play and teamwork
  - The Topic You choose might be Sports

Within that topic cluster, you would have several brief stories that illustrate your values

- Sandlot Baseball - took teamwork to get a game together
- High School teammates, friends for life
- Winning in spite of old equipment used
- A special coach's lesson
- Etc.

# First Exercise

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Let's do an example together and start a model project in the workbook. You can do these same steps at home for your own project.

- What is our example goal?
- What are some general topics that might help us achieve that goal?
- What might be some small anecdotes that would fill out that topic?

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away” Maya Angelou

# First Exercise

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At home, do this same process for your own story, using the space on the right hand page. You can refer to our model on the left to help.

- What is our example goal?
- What are some general topics that might help us achieve that goal?
- What might be some small anecdotes that would fill out that topic?

# Step C. Organize Your Memories

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Two simple, fun techniques to give you structure

A. Milestone Method.



B. Keyword Technique



*"So many memories, so little time"*

# Organizing With Milestones

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- The First Rule: Break The Selected Topic into Smaller Do-able Segments
- Topics will have one or more stories, anecdotes, or What We Call, “Milestones”. These Organize Memories Along a Time Line or Series of Events.
- By Working on One Milestone at a Time, You Avoid Distractions and Can See Results

# Milestone Methods

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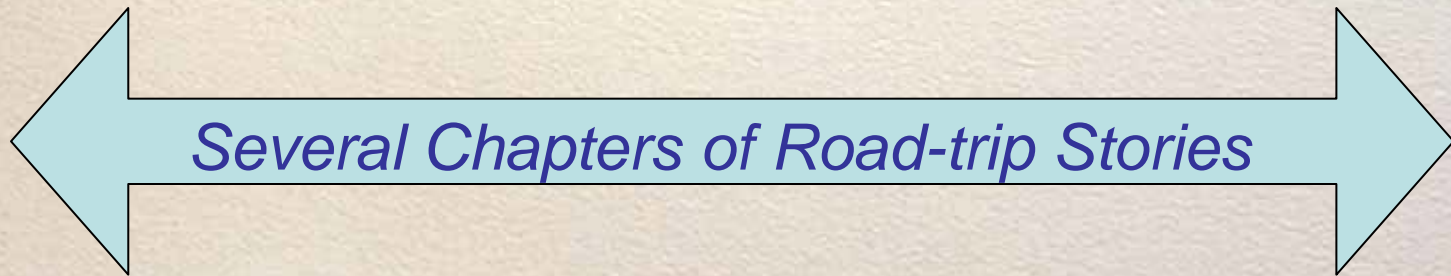


A Milestone Technique Organizes Your Project Into small Chapters. For example:

- To tell about your experiences as a your kids grew up, you can divide the topic by houses you lived in.
- To tell about road trips over the years, divide up the topic by cars you drove
- To tell about Important teachers in your life can be divided up by schools

*Following are some examples:*

# Organizing with Milestones

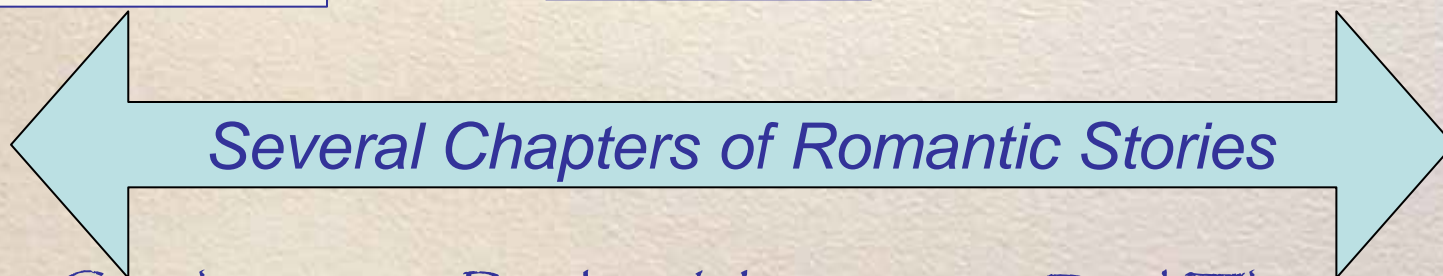


First Hot Rod

College Wheels

Family Car

# Organizing with Milestones



*Several Chapters of Romantic Stories*

Crush

Broken Hearts

Real Thing

# Milestone Suggestions



- Cars I Have Owned
  - Homes Where We Lived
  - Top Six People Who Influenced My Life
  - Jobs I Have Had
  - Top Family Vacations
  - Primary School, Junior High, High School, more
  - I Remember Momma / Father
  - My Favorite Things (by Age)
- 
- Add Your Ideas - Give Structure to your memories.

# Milestone Exercise



- Go back to your Goals and Topics exercise
- Pick a topic and think of a "Milestones" device for breaking the topic into smaller stories
- Make a list of "Milestones" for this topic
- Pick one and share an anecdote that comes to mind

# Milestone Exercise



At home, do this same process for your own story, using the space on the right hand page. You can refer to our model on the left to help.

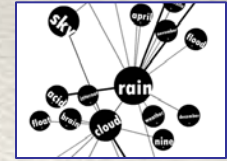
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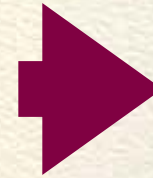
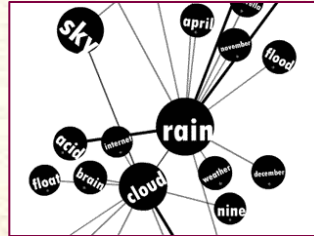
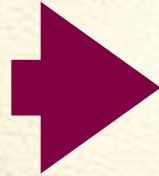
## B. Keywords Exercise



At home, do this same process for your own story, using the space on the right hand page. You can refer to our model on the left to help.

- Take A Memory You Are Working On
- On the top part of the workspace, write associated words that come to mind, anything related to your story
- Now, Circle the ones that stand out most
- On the bottom part of the work space write down words you associate with the circled selections
- You Have Expanded Your Memory Story!

# A+B. Getting It Together



QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

- Now we have a goal, general topics, ways to divide these into manageable projects, and brainstorming for lively details - lots to work with!
- Expand each word with notes in your workbook
- Now, look for photos that might fit the notes
- Name the selected photos in your text notes

*Suggestion: Do one milestone and one topic at a time, but have all milestones in one place and add ideas as they come.*

# Your Project - Working at Home

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Four exercises to build your storytelling:

- Identify goals and topics
- Milestones exercise
- Keywords brainstorming
- Notes and photo/image references

# Your Project - Working at Home

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Four exercises to build your storytelling:

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- Keywords brainstorming
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# Next Class Agenda

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1. Review What We Learned and Today and go over your four exercises. Bring your questions and comments!

2. Selecting and Managing Your Photos

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

3. Writing Tips For Memories Projects

(Check out [www.backwhen.com](http://www.backwhen.com) for writing tips)

# Class 3 Topics

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## 1. Review What We Learned in Class 2:

- Managing Photos
- Writing Tips
- Questions



## 2. Power of Sharing (Grandchildren Example)

## 3. Planning Techniques for Success

# Class 4: Adventures

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(You can peek ahead if you like.)

Choose online book-making tools according to your computer skill-level:

- For fairly savvy users or those working with whiz-kids/grandkids :
  - Apple iBook
  - Shutterfly-Tutorials on Backwhen.com
  - Kodak
  - Blurb
  
- Simplest software ~ so easy a child can do it
  - Tikatok.com



# Thank You All For Coming

