

Activities and Exercises Accompanying "Generations: Grandma, Vaudeville & Me"

A variety of exercises for students after seeing "Generations." Please feel free to pick and choose among the exercises and their lists of activities -- pick those that seem to suit your particular group of children, their age, their interests and your current activities.

- 1) Ask your parents and/or your grandparents::
 - What was the name of their elementary school?
 - Who was their favorite teacher? Why?
 - What was their favorite subject in school? Why?
 - What adventure did they have in the summer when they were young? In the winter?

- 2) Draw pictures or write down a favorite fun or exciting adventure you had with a friend. Tell your mom or dad that you had an adventure and you'd like them to see the pictures or read your story. After they've read it, ask them if they'd please tell you about an adventure they had when they were your age. If you can, do the same thing with your grandparents or aunts and uncles.

- 3) Sit down with a senior citizen you know or have met and ask them if they remember what it was like going to school when they were your age. Ask them one or more of the following questions:
 - What time did they get up for school?
 - What did they do to get ready for school?
 - Before school did they have to shower, bathe, do chores, or help their brother or sister get ready?
 - Did they walk to school or ride the bus or get a ride from their parents?
 - How far was the school from their house.
 - What was the trip like to school--did they pass anything interesting on their way to school?
 - At school, how did each day begin, what were their classmates like?

- 4) Ask your mom or dad or a grandparent if there was someone they remember who taught them something or helped them understand something that they really enjoyed doing or loved learning--perhaps a skill or a sport or a school subject or a hobby.
 - Who was the person that taught them?
 - How did they meet them?
 - What did they like about that person?
 - Are there any stories about that special person that your mom, dad or grandparent can tell you?
 - How did that person and their help change your mom, dad or grandparent's life?

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- 5) Are there people you know who do things that you'd like to learn? Have you ever talked with them about it or told them that you like the sport or subject or skill or hobby is interesting to you?
- 6) Ask someone who teaches or coaches something (like sports, dance, music, math, chess, science, writing, or art) how they got started doing their subject or sport.
- How did they first start doing their subject, hobby or sport?
 - Who helped them get started?
 - Can they tell you a story about someone they taught or helped that they'll always remember?
 - Can they tell you a story about someone who taught or helped them in this subject or hobby or sport?
- 7) Write down three inventions that you enjoy at home (like the TV, computer, etc.)
- Ask your parents to name three inventions they enjoyed at home.
 - Ask your grandparents.
 - How were the inventions your parents and grandparents enjoyed similar to the ones you have at home?
 - How are they different?
- 8) Write down your favorite sports. Your favorite TV shows.
- Ask your parents and grandparents what their favorite sports and TV shows were when they were growing up.
 - Ask them how they think your favorite sports and shows are similar to what they liked when they were young.
- 9) Draw pictures or write a story about yourself in the future, imagine that you're grown-up and you're a teacher. Make the story about your teaching someone young, someone like you. What would you teach them?
- 10) Imagine an adventure you might someday have, an adventure where you learn something really exciting, like how to play a sport or a musical instrument or an interesting school subject.
- What would the adventure be? Perhaps you go to a special camp or on a special trip or you have a special and exciting experience where people see your work.
 - Draw pictures or write a story about such an imaginary adventure.
- 11) Ask your parents, uncles, aunts or grandparents if they could tell you about someone they really liked who went away or passed away.
- What fun or exciting things do they remember about that person now?
 - What things do they still do that make them smile to remember that person now?
 - Did that person ever tell them a fun or exciting story? Can they tell you that story now?
 - How did they make themselves smile soon after that person went away or passed away?