

Harrison

Writers often find ideas for fiction stories, poems, and nonfiction stories by interviewing family, friends, and people they would like to know better. This method works for writers of any age. The introduction and list of questions below are only meant to help students think in advance of what they hope to gain from the interview.

## INTERVIEWING

Thank you for giving me this chance to learn more about you. I'm especially interested in your childhood and the years when you were growing up. If you don't mind, I'm going to take down some notes while we talk so that I don't forget important information later. I'll ask a few questions, but I hope that you will tell me about your experiences and the way things were, even if I don't happen to ask all the right questions. Are you ready to begin?

- 1 Please state your name and spell it for me.
- 2 When were you born and where?
- 3 What was going on in the world at the time you were born?
- 4 Are there any stories that your parents told you?
- 5 How many brothers and sisters did you have?
- 6 Tell me about your family, starting with your parents.
- 7 When you were little, before you started school, what are some of the things you remember?
- 8 What kind of games did children play?
- 9 Where did you go to school?
- 10 Tell me some stories about your school days.
- 11 Did you ever get into trouble in school?
- 12 How old were you when you had your first date?
- 13 Where did you go on your first date?
- 14 Did you have jobs while you were in school?
- 15 What did you do after you finished school?
- 16 Tell me about getting married.
- 17 Did you go on a honeymoon?
- 18 What did things cost when you first got married?
- 19 What did jobs pay?
- 20 Did you have a garden?
- 21 Did you go to church?
- 22 What was the hardest time in your life?
- 23 What was the saddest?
- 24 What was the happiest?
- 25 Do you have any advice for today's children?
- 26 What else would you like to talk about?

Thank you!