

In your family, which languages are spoken? How do you personally connect with or use those languages?



Talk Story Prompt Cards created by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association

Think about what makes you—you! How do you show who you are through your clothes, the phrases you use, the books you enjoy, and the activities you do?



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What do you think others might assume about you? How does it make you feel when people make those assumptions about you?



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What is a food you loved to eat growing up?

Activity Idea: Make the dish together. After making the dish, write down the ingredients and steps you used so you can share the recipe with others.



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Have you ever visited the place where your family comes from? If you have, what was your visit like? If you have not, what would you like to do if you get a chance to visit?



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If you could talk to an ancestor, a family member who lived a long time ago, what would you want to tell them or ask them? If you could talk to a descendant, a family member who will live after you, what would you want to tell them or ask them?

Activity Idea: Write a letter or make a card for an ancestor or descendant. Share your thoughts, feelings, and any questions you have for them.



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Where did our family come from? What is some family history about that place?

Activity Idea: Explore a map, globe, or Google Maps to find out where your family is from. Imagine what life is like there.



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What is a family tradition you love? Or what is a family tradition you would like to create?

Activity Idea: Gather the family to do a special tradition and create memories together.



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Do you have a favorite photograph?
If you could take a picture of anything,
what do you wish you could capture in
a photograph?



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Describe the place where you lived when you
were younger—your home, neighborhood, and
anything around it. What do you remember the
most when you think about where you grew up?

Activity Idea: Draw a picture of the place where
you lived when you were younger. It could be
your house, the street, and anything special
you remember about it.



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Can you show me something in your
home that makes you really happy?
Why does this object bring you joy?



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Is there a smell, sound, taste, or sight
that makes you think of memories from
the past? What is it, and why does it
remind you of those times?



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Do you have a favorite book, poem,
or story that is really special to you?
What makes it so meaningful to you?



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What is something about you that
you really want others to understand
or know?



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How far back can we trace our
family history?



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When you think about your family,
what is something you are curious to
learn more about?



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Do you have any stories, legends, or folklore in your family that have been passed down?

Activity Idea: Choose a story or legend from your family's history, then read it together with a family member, or read it aloud to your stuffed animal or pet.



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Have you ever felt really alone or like there is nobody around for you? When you feel lonely, what makes you feel better or who makes you feel less lonely?



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Did you join any activities or clubs in your community? What was it like being part of them?



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What makes you feel proud to be part of your community?



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Can you tell me what it was like for you when you were growing up?



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Have you ever seen or been involved in something that is in history books? How did that event affect you or your family personally?



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If you could make a special box, a time capsule, to bury and open in the future, to help people learn how we live today, what would you put inside it?

Activity Idea: Gather special items that represent your life right now and put them in a container.

Bury the container in a safe place or hide it away to open in the future to see how things have changed.



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What is your favorite phrase or word in another language?

Activity Idea: Create a piece of art that features your favorite phrase or word.

Use colors and shapes to make the phrase or word stand out.



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What are some things that you like about yourself?



Talk Story Prompt Cards created by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association

What is a food that you disliked when you were younger? Could you describe how it made you feel when you ate it?



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Did grandma or grandpa ever tell you stories about what it was like when they were kids or when they were younger? How did grandma and grandpa meet?



Talk Story Prompt Cards created by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association

What does love mean to you? How do you feel and show love to others? How does it make you feel when someone shows love to you?



Talk Story Prompt Cards created by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association

What is something in our community or neighborhood that you are curious to know more about?



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ABOUT THE CARDS

The Talk Story Prompt Cards, created by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), are designed to encourage people to hold meaningful conversations about their culture, family history, and more. They draw upon the Talk Story values of family literacy, intergenerational activities, cultural literacy and identity.



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HOW TO USE THE CARDS

- We encourage you to do the cards together with family, friends, and any other people in your life.
- Read the cards together and informally chat about the questions.
- You can adapt any question and personalize it for you and your family.
 - For example, if your family says “Lolo” and “Lola” for “Grandpa” and “Grandma,” we encourage you to use those terms of endearment. It’s a part of cultural and family literacy!



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HOW TO USE THE CARDS

- It’s OK if these conversations feel emotional or difficult.
- It’s OK to say “I don’t know.”
- It’s OK to skip any question.
- Be curious and open about exploring the prompts.
- Some cards include suggested activity ideas as a way to engage with these topics.



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