



Hospice Society

OF CAMROSE AND DISTRICT

Hospice Client-Support Conversation Questions

Looking for ways to engage in conversation over the phone (or perhaps in person as well)? Below are conversation starters, broken into themes.

Collecting Childhood Stories

- Where were you born?
 - Country?
 - Province, town/city
 - In a hospital?
- What is your birthday?
 - Do you know anything about local or world events on the day your birth?
- What did you weigh?
- Do you know anything about the delivery?
- Were you a healthy child?
- Who gave you your name? Why that name?
 - Did you have a nickname? If so, how did you get it?
- What did you look like as a child?
- Were you ever in an accident as a child?
 - If so, were you hospitalized?
 - What do you recall about it?
- What was your favorite pastime as a child?
 - What games did you play?
 - What was your favorite toy?
- Describe your childhood home. How did you feel about it?
- Describe your family car when you were a child.
- Recall something silly you did as a child
- What were Sundays like as a child?
 - Did you go to a religious service?
 - Did you visit family? Grandparents?
 - Did you have regular family dinners?
- Where did your mother or father go to work?
 - What were their duties/responsibilities?
- Describe your father
- Describe your mother
- What were your favorite childhood treats?
 - How much did it cost?

- What did you do at bedtime – favorite story or prayers?
 - Who tucked you in?
- Recall a story regarding learning about:
 - Santa Claus
 - Tooth fairy
 - Easter bunny
 - God
 - Angels
- Share about being involved in Scouts, cubs, brownies or other clubs?
- Recall a radio program, TV show, or movie from your childhood?
- Did you learn to play a musical instrument?
 - If so, what?
 - What do you remember about playing?
- What did you want to do/be when you grew up?
 - Did you do this? Why or why not?
 - If yes, did you enjoy it? Why or why not?
- What scent or sound immediately takes you back to childhood?
 - What feeling does it evoke?
- What is the name of a favorite animal companion?
 - What kind of animal was it?
 - Describe this animal? What happened to her/him?
- What extracurricular activities were you involved in during high school?
- What were your family finances like growing up? How did that affect you?
- What meaningful advice did you get from an adult when you were growing up?

Collecting Stories of Romance

- Describe a memorable valentine you received
 - Who gave it to you?
 - How old were you? How old were they?
- Describe your first kiss
 - Were you dating/courting?
 - Did you marry this person?
- Was a dating curfew imposed on you by your parents/guardians?
 - What time was imposed?
 - Tell about a time when you came home late
- What did you do on dates?
- Who was your first love?
 - Did you marry them?
- How old were you when you married (if married)?
 - Do you think you were mature enough to have made such a commitment?
 - Were all of your parents in support of your relationship?
 - Where were you married? Why there?
 - How long did you know each other before you were married?

- How did you celebrate your honeymoon?
- Did you ever have a love that you did not pursue or that did not come to be?
 - What became of that person?
 - Why did the relationship not unfold as you wished it to?

Collecting Stories About Married/partnered Life (skip if never married/partnered)

- Describe your wedding
 - Where did it take place?
 - What is your anniversary?
 - What was the weather like that day?
 - Was it a traditional service or something else?
 - How many people attended?
 - Who was in your wedding party?
 - Tell a story about something that stands out from that day
 - How did you feel prior to the ceremony?
 - Was it what you wanted/expected it to be?
- Describe your relationship to your in-laws
- Where did you first live?
 - Describe your first residence
 - How long did you live there?
 - Where did you live the longest?
- What was your household's source of income over the years?
- What hardships, if any, did you experience during your early years together?
- What did you discover to be the biggest adjustment to living as a couple?
- Recall something humorous about your partner/spouse?
 - Was/is a sense of humor important to your relationship?
- Describe a memorable gift that you gave your partner.
 - Was it well-received?
- Describe a memorable gift that they gave you.
 - Was it well-received?
- What were/are your mate's best qualities?
- What would your mate say are *your* best qualities?
- At what point in your relationship were you the happiest?

Collecting Stories About Life and Death

- What do you think happens when you die?
- What are your thoughts/feelings about dying?
- Death of life partner/spouse:
 - When did they die?
 - What was the cause?
 - Were you with them at the time of their death? Describe that experience
 - Where are they buried? Why there?
 - Did you have a memorial/funeral/wake? If so, describe this?

- Other deaths:
 - Describe a friend who has died
 - When did they die?
 - What was the cause?
 - Did you attend a funeral/memorial/wake?
 - How did you meet them?
 - What made your friendship valuable to you?
 - What did you like about them?
 - Describe a special memory about them
 - Describe a family member (not spouse) who died
 - What was your relationship to the person who died? What was their name?
 - When did they die?
 - What was the cause?
 - Share about the funeral/memorial/wake
 - Describe your relationship to them

Random Questions

- Recall a surprise visit from family or friends
 - Who was it?
 - How far did they come to see you?
- What was your favorite subject to study as a child? As a teen?
- Describe a book that you read that really stays with you or is especially meaningful for you.
- What similarities do you see between your children and grandchildren?
- Looking back, what do you wish that you had done in childhood or early adulthood?
- What do you wish you had done differently in your parenting?
- Describe your mother in her best dress.
- Describe a parent in their working clothes.
- What similarities to your father/mother do you see in yourself or in your children?
- What do you like to serve when company comes over?
 - For appetizers?
 - For dessert?
 - For main course?
- What family traditions do you hope will be continued by your children and grandchildren?
- What is one of the most difficult choices you have had to make?
 - Would you make the same choice again if you could go back as you are now?
- Share a memory of a family reunion.
- What is your favorite season of the year and why?
- If you went to post-secondary school where did you go?
 - What did you study?
 - What certification/diploma/degree did you achieve?
 - Did you work in this field? If so, did you enjoy it?
- What values did you instill in your children?
- Do you think that boys or girls were easier to raise? Why?
- What did it feel like when your last child left home?