

*Life is full of hope. Be the master of your future.
Strive for a new way. A heartfelt smile comes from a caring heart.*

Author: Huang Huiyi

What do you see in the picture?

In the picture, I see the white clouds floating in the blue sky. I see the vast ocean with lots of waves. I see the battered island in the sea. On the island, I see fortitude and strength. I also see the geese gliding through the sky. From them I see the aspiration for dream, future and life.

How do you feel about the picture?

I think that the picture shows roaring passion underneath serenity and harmony. The scene shows a sense of universal affection. I find courage from the picture and it seems that it is encouraging me to forgo the past and focus on the future. It gives me the courage to fly high and the strength to withstand the storm. It also lights up a fire in my heart that makes me believe that I am capable of doing anything.

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China Memory Book Project

Hello!

I am your memory book. Nice to meet you! From this day onward I will be your life-long companion. Whenever you feel miserable, I will be a reliable friend. However, I have to know you better first. I would like to know more about your father, your mother and your family, too. Could you give me a hand? Please fill in the blanks in this memory book.

When you are filling in this memory book, you are doing something like never before-being a reporter and an artist at the same time! You will try your best to interview your father, mother, brothers and sisters, or friends who know them the best. You can record the results and draw pictures on me-the memory book, just use your imagination and dress me up!

You will have a great time working on this task. You need to be very careful when writing and drawing on me. Take your time. This is a very important point. I suggest you to finish the book one page at a time. I know you can do it, and I hope you enjoy it. When you finish, you will obtain three badges, which are hiding in this memory book.....

Take good care of me and visit me often, I will help you through difficult times and lead you to the right track in life. Be brave my friend, fill me in!

This memory book belongs to Cheng (your name) starting from 18th September 2005.

My Story

My name is Cheng. I was born in group 5, Wenlou village, Shengcai county, Henan province on 6th January 1986.

Grandfather (a name) picked this name for me. It meant that he wanted me to be outstanding and live a beautiful life. I took my first step when I was XXX years old. I started to talk when I was xxx years old. The first word I said was “home”. My favorite game is XXX and I often play this game with XXX (a name).

I don't talk much and I like to think quietly alone.

My hobby is reading.

My favorite things.....

Color:	Blue	Food:	Noodle	Festival:	Mid-autumn festival
Song:	Know You	Scenery:	Beautiful grassland	Season:	Spring
Activity:	Strolling with my friend	Sound:	The sound of wind chimes and raindrops on glass	Subject:	Language, mathematics, English (almost all subjects are my favorite)

I want to be a (occupation) XXXX when I grow up.

When I get married, I would like to have one child.

I would like my future husband to be:

A loving, filial and confident person who understands and cares about the others. He should also have the courage to face the future and challenge, and perseverance.

Please ask your mother, your father or other people to fill this.

Do they know you well?

Mother (a name) thinks that these things are my favorite.

Color:	Green	Food:	Noodle	Festival:	Mid-autumn festival
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Song:	Memory in pink	Scenery:	Sea	Season:	Spring
Activity:	Rope skipping	Sound:	Birdsong	Subject:	English, language

My studies

Stick your picture here or draw a portrait of yourself.

If you are still a student, can you tell me your results? Making progress in your studies is very important for both of us. Please record your current and future achievement, and see how you progress continuously!

Date	Subject	Result
12/4	English	107.5
12/4	Language	117
12/4	Mathematics	128
12/4	Politics	88
12/4	History	83
12/4	Geography	81
20/8	English	118
20/8	Language	109
20/8	Mathematics	127
20/8	Politics	86
20/8	History	82
20/8	Geography	80
3/10	Mathematics	127

The story of my mother

Stick a picture of your mother here or draw a picture of her.

Please ask your mother to fill in the following pages. Tell her that the information is very important to you. Remember what I have said at the very beginning? You have to fill me in like a reporter does. If your mother is not around, you can invite someone who knows her best to help you out.

What if no one can help? You should not have these thoughts, because you are here! Even if the worst thing happens in your life, you are still here! Use your imagination! Remember what I have told you at the beginning? You have to act like an artist! Come on, use your imagination!

My mother was born in Wenlou Hanzhuang village, Shengcai county, Henan province on 16th November 1964.

My mother is gentle, cheerful and a little bit sentimental.

The most outstanding character of my mother is XXXXX.

My mother met my father through the introduction by friends.

My mother's favorite things are.....

Color:	Red	Food:	Dumpling	Festival:	Mid-autumn festival
Song:	Come home often	Scenery:	The harvest	Season:	Autumn
Activity:		Sound:		Subject:	

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What is the best memory between mother and child? Were you at home or somewhere else? What were you doing?

One day, when the child was still in primary school and she came home singing the song, “Mother is the best”. I was washing clothes at home then. It was a moment that I will never forget. My child was still very small that time. I was touched and it is the best memory in my life.

What is your mother’s expectation for you? What kind of person does your mother want you to be when you grow up?

I hope that my child can be outstanding and live a carefree life. When she grows up, I want her to treat people with a grateful heart and try to help the others as much as possible.

What is your mother’s advice for you? What does your mother want you to remember?

We have to be honest and down-to-earth. We should never reap profits at the expense of others.

Never forget the hardship and those who have helped us.

Please ask your mother to draw a perfect world in the space below. If your mother cannot draw, what do you think this perfect world will look like in your mother’s eye?

Life is such a long journey but the memory book is short. Though we will not be able to record the whole life of your mother in here, at least we can get to know the three most important things in her life through these aspects.

Draw or write three most important things in your mother's life in the spaces provided below, then add an explanation under each space.

1. Getting married with father	2. Giving birth to me	3. Giving birth to my young brother
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1. My mother was 21 when she married my father. It might be the turning point of her life. With all her dreams and hopes, she stepped into a brand new world. Though the wedding was simple, I could still imagine how beautiful and blissful she was that day from her description. She had a new start, a new support and a new kind of happiness.
2. Seventeen years ago, mother experienced the second most important event in her life as she gave birth to her first child. She became the mother of a child. She might be very painful that day, but she endured the suffering for her child, which represents a new life, colors in her life and new hope.

3. Perhaps the third most important thing in my mother's life was the birth of her second child. I am sure that mother suffered a lot that day. But the yearning for her child gave her strength to endure anything.

My dear, AIDS has been a very painful illness to you and me. I want so much to tell you all the happiness happened to me in my life, but still I would like to tell you XXXX.

Does your mother have AIDS? Yes

If the answer is yes, she was infected four years ago.

Your mother and you feel that: At the beginning, we all felt that life was hopeless. Mother was very pessimistic and I also thought that there was no future and life lost its meaning.

How is the condition of your mother and you now? My mother's health is still fine, but I know that I must not upset her. I am now studying in a key high school and my result is good. Though we are not rich, but we have love.

What is the help and care received by your mother? We receive the subsidy from the government and the medical care. There are many caring people offering help to us.

The story of my father

Stick a picture of your father here or draw a picture of him.

Please ask your father to fill in the following pages. Tell him that the information is very important to you. If your father is not around, you can invite someone who knows him best to help you out. If you cannot find anyone who can help you, use your knowledge and your imagination! Be an artist!

My father was born in Wenlou village, Shengcai county, Henan province on 6th May 1965.

My father is humorous, cheerful, enthusiastic and kind.

The most outstanding character of my father is that he can always make people laugh and he is very caring.

My father met my mother through the introduction by friends.

My father's favorite things are.....

Color:	Green	Food:	[]	Festival:	Dragon Boat Festival
Song:	Contribution of love	Scenery:	Mountains and sea	Season:	Summer
Activity:	Chinese chess	Sound:	Flute	Subject:	

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What is the best memory between father and child? Were you at home or somewhere else? What were you doing?

When the child came home with certificate and award. I was at home working in the field and managing the harvest.

What is your father's expectation for you? What kind of person does your father want you to be when you grow up?

I hope that she can study hard and have a great life. Be earnest and kind. Experience life whole-heartedly.

What is your father's advice for you? What does your father want you to remember?

Advice: Be humble no matter how good you are.

I hope that she won't forget those who have helped and loved her.

Please ask your father to draw a perfect world in the space below. If your father cannot draw, what do you think this perfect world will look like in your father's eye?

Life is such a long journey but the memory book is short. Though we will not be able to record the whole life of your father here, at least we can get to know the three most important things in his life through these aspects.

Draw or write three most important things in your father's life in the spaces provided below, then add an explanation each space.

1. Getting married with my mother	2. Repairing our house	3. My admission into a key high school
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1. Father and mother got married 19 years ago, and it might be a day that he would never forget. After that, he had to take up the responsibility of a husband and a family. He became a real grown up on that day and had to take care of the family.
2. I remember that the construction period of our house was the hardest time for my father. He got up to work early and stayed up late that he seemed to grow old overnight. I knew that he worked for our house and hoped that we could have a warm and comfortable home.

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3. Three years ago, I enrolled into a key high school and I could see the happiness in my father's eyes. Though the school fee was a significant expense, he had no regret. That day, he paid a visit to me at school and I suddenly noticed that he was no longer young. I felt his happiness that day, but I also knew that when he brought the school fee to my school, he was under a great financial and family pressure.

My dear, AIDS has been a very painful illness to you and me. I want so much to tell you all the happiness happened to me in my life, but still I would like to tell you...

Does your father have AIDS? No.

If the answer is yes, he was infected XXX years ago.

Your father and you feel that:

How is the condition of your father and you now?

What is the help and care received by your father?

My family chart

My friend, now I would like to teach you how to record your family history. This is very important. This is something that I would not want you to forget. I will teach you how to draw a family chart. This chart can help you make a record of the relationship among the three generations in your family. Please read the following instruction carefully...

Married

Child

Male

Female

Grandfather and Grandmother	Grandfather's elder brother/Grandfather's younger brother/Grandfather's sister	Grandfather	Grandmother	Grandmother's elder brother/Grandmother's younger brother/Grandmother's sister	Grandfather's brother/Grandfather's sister	Grandfather	Grandmother	Grandmother's brother/Grandmother's sister
Father and Mother		Wife of father's elder brother/ Wife of father's younger brother /Husband of father's sister	Father's elder brother/Father's younger brother/Father's sister	Father	Mother	Mother's brother/Mother's sister	Wife of mother's brother/Husband of mother's sister	
The same generation of yours		Cousins on father's side		Your brothers, your sisters and you		Cousins on mother's side		

After reading the instruction, it's your turn to create your own family chart. Remember to write down everyone's name! You can add other relatives to the family chart, too. For example, the parents of your grandfather and grandmother.

Grandfather		Grandmother	Grandfather	Grandmother	
Father's elder brother and younger brother	Father's sister	Father	Mother	Mother's sister	Mother's brother
		My younger brother	Me		

Please fill in these few pages with your parents. If your father and mother are not around, you can invite your brothers and sisters, or other relatives to join you. If you cannot find anyone, then use your knowledge or your imagination. You will have a great time!

<p><i>My family's favourite handiwork:</i></p> <p>Draw 24 identical circles using a pair of compasses on a coloured cardboard, and cut them off. Fold the circles at about 60° and paste six of them together to form the cover. Construct the bottom in the same way. Then use the remaining 12 circles to form the body. Combine the three parts and a beautiful paper ball is formed.</p>	<p><i>We celebrate the Lunar New Year (festival) by:</i></p> <p>On the New Year Eve, mother will make a lot of dumplings for a simple annual dinner. Father and brother will play firework outside the house. Then we will watch the New Year show together. Though everything is simple, it feels so warm and nice to stay with my family.</p>
<p><i>We work in the field like this:</i></p> <p>When it's time for sowing wheat, first of all we have to plough the field and add some fertilizer. Then father will find a tractor to sow the seeds of wheat. It takes patience to grow wheat. Sometimes we have a dry spring that makes irrigation difficult and it exhausts my parents.</p>	<p><i>Child, where would you like to go if you could fly?</i></p> <p>If I could fly, I would fly to the medical institution and help them to develop the cure for AIDS so that those unfortunate people don't have to suffer any more and everyone can be happy.</p>

People who would like to help me

This page is for your father and mother to fill in. This is very important to you, because whenever you need help in the future, you can depend on these people. If your father and your mother are not around, do you have brothers and sisters, or other relatives who can help you?

Name: Address: Lugang Wenlou village, Shengcai county Phone No.: 137[] He/She is your: Uncle	Name: Address: Lugang Wenlou village, Shengcai county Phone No.: 138[] He/She is your: Uncle	Name: Address: Lugang Wenlou village, Shengcai county Phone No.: 132[] He/She is your: Uncle
Name: Address: Phone No.: He/She is your:	Name: Address: Phone No.: He/She is your:	Name: Address: Phone No.: He/She is your:
Name: Address: Phone No.: He/She is your:	Name: Address: Phone No.: He/She is your:	Name: Address: Phone No.: He/She is your:

If you have finished page 1 to page 15 already, this badge will be yours. You have reported the stories of your parents like a real reporter. You have been writing and drawing beautifully like a real artist. Now you have obtained the first badge, but there are still two more to go. I would like to know more about you in the following pages.

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The box for problems

Everybody has worry, fear, nightmare, regret, sorrow and anger. If you have these problems, you can put them into the box I give you and open it when you want to solve them.

Author: Diana Quan

My problems:

1. How can I let my parents live happily? 2. What should I do to improve the living of my family? 3. What should I do when I encounter challenge and failure? 4. What should I do in order to improve my result and enter a good university?

My Goals

This page keeps a record of your goals. I have set you 12 goals and hope that you can achieve them. Some are more difficult to do, but as long as you keep trying, you will finally do it!

Goals	√	Date	How did you do that?
* Tell a story to somebody	√	19/9/2005	One of my classmates tells me that she thinks of withdrawing from school because of her unsatisfactory result. I tell her a story that teaches us never to give up. She is happy and thanks me for that.
* Learn a new skill	√	19/9/2005	I always want to learn “three-step slam dunk”, so in the PE lesson, I ask my deskmate to teach me. After practicing for a session, I master the basic technique, though it’s far from perfect.
* Teach somebody this new skill	√	20/9/2005	Yesterday I learnt the “three-step slam dunk” and today I decide to teach my roommate so that I can also practice myself. She is not strong and is exhausted after the practice. But I finally make her learn it.
* Make a new friend	√	22/9/2005	Today, the teacher asks us to change our seats and I choose to sit next to a girl who is gentle but not yet a friend of mine. When we tidy up the desks, I offer my help and then we become friends.
* Learn how to prevent AIDS	√	12/10	The school distribute a booklet on AIDS prevention and I read it seriously. As a high school student, self-respect is very important.
* Discuss AIDS with somebody	√	12/10	As we read the information on AIDS, I discuss the issue with my deskmate. We both think that AIDS patients need the attention, understanding and help from society.
* Do one task by yourself	√	3/10	Today is the National Day holiday and I stay at home. I always want to do something for my family as my parents are busy. So I prepare the dinner early tonight. Though it is not as delicious as

			my mother's cooking, they are still very happy.
* Do a good thing for the others	√	13/10	During the examination today, the classmate sitting next to me forgets to bring his ruler. Though I don't know him, I lend him mine. It's a small thing, but I am very happy.
* Make people laugh	√	15/10	This morning, we get back the exam papers and my classmate cries because of the result. I don't want to see people crying so I comfort her. My classmates call her by her diminutive name in some funny tone and she finally bursts into laughter.

Goals	√	Date	How did you do that?
* Improve your academic result	√	3/10	I seldom did well in mathematics and my score never reached 120. But I don't give up. Everyday I work on some advanced exercises that other classmates don't like to do. And finally I get 127 marks.
* Send a small gift to somebody	√	10/9	Today is the Teacher Day and everyone prepares gifts for the teachers. I make a card for my class teacher. Though the card doesn't cost much, but my teacher is very happy.
* Show somebody this Memory Book	√	14/11	Today I finally finish the Memory Book and I show it to my best friend. She is touched and she says that she has confidence in me.

If you have achieved all these 12 goals I set for you, you can get this badge! In the future, if anybody looks down upon you, you can assure yourself that they have no idea now brilliant you are as they haven't read these pages!

Can you write down your own goals now?

Goals	√	Date	How did you do that?
*Tell my mother what I feel	√	2/9	I know that my mother loves me and I love her too. But I had never told her my secret. I do it today.
*Make my mother smile	√	9/9	The Double Ninth Festival is a “filiality festival”, the day that we should show filial piety. When I bring back my result record, my mother smiles.
* Say “happy birthday” to my father	√	29/8	Father’s birthday finally comes. I let his birthdays passed in silence in the past, but today I say “happy birthday” to him.
* Say “I love you” to my mother	√	2/10	I love my mother and I want to tell her that. However I am too shy. Today I finally take my courage and say it. I see that when mother smiles, there is tear in her eyes.
* Improve my academic result	√	3/10	Last time I didn’t do well in the mathematics examination, and I swore that I would catch up. And I do it and get 127 marks this time.
* Have an intimate talk with my classmate	√	10/10	I have many friends and they treat me well. However, because of the busy schoolwork, we seldom have time to have intimate talk. Today, I talk for a long time with my deskmate when we are participating in the extracurricular activity.
* Answer question actively	√	4/11	Today, my language teacher asks about our compositions, I take my courage and stand up.
* Share the problem of my classmate	√	25/10	I like helping people. Today my roommate is in bad mood and I counsel her. She smiles finally.
* Come first in class	√	8/9	The final result is announced finally and I come first in class. At that moment, I want to cry as I have worked so hard to get it. I finally did it!

If you have already achieved the goals you set for yourself, then you are a real winner! This is the last badge for you, and I hope that more badges will be coming in your future.

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My friend, you have almost completed the Memory Book now. Through these 20 pages, I think I have known you and your family well enough. In the coming years, I hope that you will occasionally take a look at me. I also hope that I will leave you some unforgettable memories and give you enough support for your future.

In the last section, I want you to write some letters to some people. You may not be able to meet them all, but the letter papers I give you are very special. You don't need a stamp or post box, yet they can still read the letters and will remember you forever. Can you tell them what are you thinking now? What do you want to do in the future?

Dear father and mother,

Father and mother, thank you for bringing me to this world and giving me life. Thank you for raising me up and guiding me.

There is a saying that "you are always a child in your parents' eyes". It is true. No matter how far I go, I am always kept guard and cared by you. Nobody can love me and protect me like you do. And nobody can understand and tolerate me like you do. Nobody can think of me like you do all the time.

Father and mother, I know that you have sacrificed so much for me. The steady strides of father became a little bit staggering; the smooth forehead of mother shows the track of time; the once strong body of father is now bending a little bit; and the sleek black hair of mother now shows some white strands. You are old now. You have sacrificed your golden time for me and my future.

Father and mother, I know that you always worry about me and you have tried your best to give me a better life. Please be assured that I understand the hardship you have endured and I will study hard so that you won't be disappointed. I believe that one day I will let you live a much better life.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Hello my little brother. This is the first “letter” I write to you. I know that you may never read this “letter”, but I really have so many things to tell you.

Working is harsh, right? Far away from home and family could be very lonely and helpless, right? You were so brave when you chose to work so as to support my study. But I know that everything you do should be what I am supposed to be doing. Do you know that I always think of you when things go wrong in school or I don't do well in examination? I feel so sorry for you. I think perhaps you would have had done much better if you were the one studying as you are so clever and much capable than I am. Mother tells me that whenever you call, you ask about me and my study and support me wholeheartedly. I think I could never pay you back. Sometimes I even think that if there is an afterlife, I should repay you with all I have. Brother, I promise that no matter what our lives would be, as long as I am alive, I will never let you suffer.

Dear grandfathers and grandmothers,

I know that as I grow up, you grow old. Time leaves some permanent marks on your once young faces. Your black hair now turned white. The strong stride is now staggering. However, I know that your love for the grandchildren never changes. I still remember how blissful it was when grandfather carried me on his back and taught me poems. I will never forget the warm summer nights when grandmother cuddled me and sang some old ballads.

Time flies. When I think of the happy childhood I spent with you, I couldn't stop my tear. It is such a beautiful memory. Do you still remember the childish promise I made when I was small? I promised that I would build a big house for you and fill it with food so that you wouldn't have to work in the field. How naïve I was then. But I really don't want to see you suffer.

Dear teachers,

I always want to say “thank you” to you. Perhaps you wouldn’t hear my sincere prayer, but I will keep on praying for you. You teach me knowledge, which becomes an inexhaustible wealth. You teach me the principles of life and I will always bear in mind the importance of honesty. You pass me the wisdom and give me the most encouraging smile and support. Thank you so much.

Dear Memory Book,

Dear friend, do you know that I really like you? I also thank you for helping me to keep a record of the things happened in my life. I always want to dress you up, but it seems that I am not doing very well, please forgive me! Don’t worry about me, I will work hard and tell you my thoughts and wishes so that you would look wonderful.

Dear World,

I always think that it’s a world full of sincerity and kindness. Though some people are less fortunate, they can always get help and care from the others no matter how lonely they are. Living in this world, I am not free of sorrow, yet I am still glad that love gives me light and lets me find the motive and courage to carry on. When I grow up, I will contribute my effort to build a better and more harmonious society.

Note

I know that only I can change the future of me and my family. I am the hope of my family and they have very high expectation for me, so I must work hard.

Perhaps the only way is for me to enter university. I have to study in the best university and let my family live a better life. I will give more love to this society if I can. I have received so much help from those nice people and I should repay the society by offering my love to those in need so that more people can feel the warmth from society.

I am always trying my best to improve and scale new height. In the past, I grumbled about my unfortunate life. I thought that it was unfair that I didn't have a better opportunity to soar high. But that was the past. I have grown up now and I stop complaining. I started to think about the meaning of life.

I finally understand that real fortune comes from your contribution to the society, the caring you devote to the others and the people you have helped instead of the happiness, confidence, the perfect family or the wealth you have.

Perhaps I am not good enough to give much love to the others, but I will try my best to help those around me so that there is only sunlight, but not dark cloud, around me. Helping those in need around me—this is my promise.