

*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?*

The blue sky, the vast ocean, the towering mountains and a flock of geese piercing through the cloud.

*How do you feel about the picture?*

It is open, natural, fresh, clean, peaceful and full of the colors of life.

Page 1

## 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 Zhang (your name) starting from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2005.*

My Story

My name is xxx. I was born in group 6, Qianzhang village, Shangcai county, Henan province on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1988.

My father (a name) picks this name for me, it means he wants me to be beautiful and elegant. I started to walk when I was two years old. I started to talk when I was two years old. The first word I said was “melon seed”. My favorite game is gobang and I often play this game with my younger brother (a name).

I am good at mitigating embarrassment.

My hobby is watching TV with my family.

My favorite things.....

Color:	White and light colors	Food:	Egg and fruits	Festival:	Lunar New Year
Song:	I believe	Scenery:	Mountains and waters	Season:	Summer
Activity:	Playing with my friends	Sound:	Soft	Subject:	Language

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

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

*I would like my future husband/wife to be:*

My husband should be handsome, matured, staid, kind, understanding, responsible and love me forever.

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

*Do they know you well?*

My best friend (a name) thinks that these things are my favorite.

Color:	Pastel colors	Food:	Fruits	Festival:	Lunar New Year
Song:	Friends	Scenery:	Mountains and waters	Season:	Summer
Activity:	Singing	Sound:	Soft	Subject:	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
9/10	Language, mathematics, English, politics, history and geography	121, 95, 111, 83, 89, 83

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 Liupen village, Runan county, Henan province on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1967.

My mother is gentle and timid.

The most outstanding character of my mother is that she agrees with everything my brother and I request.

My mother met my father through the introduction by friends.

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

Color:	Brown	Food:	Chicken, noodles	Festival:	Dragon Boat Festival
Song:	Mother is the best	Scenery:	High-rise buildings in the city	Season:	Spring and autumn
Activity:	Going to the temple fair	Sound:	Loud	Subject:	Christianity

Page 5

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

The children stay happy everyday and don't make me angry. I tell the same story to them hundreds times and they never get tired.

At home.

When I am doing housework but not very busy.

*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 children will be healthy, strong and beautiful. They should respect and take care of the parents.

Be a "good" person. "Goodness" includes many outstanding qualities. Be an outstanding person.

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

Study hard and work hard. Don't forget your parents and brothers.

*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	2. Giving birth to children	3. Father contracting HIV
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1. Mother didn't have a happy childhood and nobody loved her. Only her grandmother loved her but she was still bullied by the others. It is only after getting married that she feels family love. She starts to take control of her life as nobody controls her or orders her to do this and that.
2. The greatest happiness for a woman is being a mother. This is a very important event in a woman's life and you can't explain it with a single reason.

3. Father's disease is a shock for everyone, but mother still stays strong. Mother always comforts father at the hardest moment. Her life has changed since then. She has to withstand the suspicion, negligence and grievance. Though these emotions vanish finally, who can understand mother's feeling?

*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 mother have AIDS? No.*

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

*Your mother and you feel that: We are different from the others and our lives are getting harder. The sweet home is no longer there.*

*How is the condition of your mother and you now?*

Mother and I are fine. We are calm and composed, not as sad as the others.

*What is the help and care received by your mother?*

In the busy months of farming, people offer their help voluntarily and our neighbors always come to visit 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 Qianzhang village, Shangcai county, Henan province on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1966.

My father is impetuous and straightforward.

The most outstanding character of my father is that he trusts people easily.

My father met my mother through the introduction by friends.

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

Color:	Black	Food:	Anything	Festival:	Lunar New Year
Song:	We soldiers	Scenery:		Season:	Autumn
Activity:	Playing card	Sound:		Subject:	

Page 9

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

Once my father was riding bicycle and accidentally fell from the bike. My younger brother, who was sitting at the rear seat, fell into the shallow river too. When he got out of the water, he said, "It's so refreshing!"

On the way home.

*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 my children won't work as a peasant like me. My children should be ambitious and smart.

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

You have to be brave and daring. Remember to be good in the future and don't trust people easily. Don't be cheated.

*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 under each space.*

1. Enlisting	2. Getting married	3. Contracting HIV
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1. When my father was young, going to school was not the dream for children and few people valued education. So my father gave up study and enlisted as a soldier. The years he spent in the troop were the happiest time in his youth. He learnt many new things and made a lot of friends. He also learnt the troop songs that he loves to sing.
2. Marriage is an important thing in everyone's life, my father is no exception. He finally has a family and be a real man. At the very beginning, everything was a challenge and living was a problem. Yet father managed to solve the problem and live a better life.

Page 11

3. At the most peaceful moment, a tragedy happened and my father nearly broke down. The once perfect and happy life vanished suddenly and changed dramatically. But the hard days were finally over and we can now face the reality.

*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? Yes.*

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

*Your father and you feel that:* People like to talk about us and don't treat us as ordinary people.

*How is the condition of your father and you now?*

We are fine. We don't have much fear but stay calm.

*What is the help and care received by your father?*

People help and take care of us. People always send us gifts and regards.

*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 sister		Father's younger brother	Father Zhang Baocheng	Mother	Mother's sister	Mother's brother
Cousin	Cousin	Cousin	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!*

My family's favourite handiwork: Knitting woollen sweaters	We celebrate the Lunar New Year (festival) by:  Offering sacrifices to ancestors, playing firework, visiting relatives and having dinner
We work in the field like this: Depending on labour power most of the time and using machines occasionally.	Child, where would you like to go if you could fly?

*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: Han Address: Hanzhuang  Phone No.: He/She is your: my best friend	Name: Zhang Address: Zhangzhuang  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:	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.*

Page 16

*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: I don't have perseverance and patience. I don't have much self-discipline and always make people angry. I want to be perfect but I can hardly do it.

## 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	During the lesson, my deskmate and I are very tired, so I tell her a story to lift up her mood.
* Learn a new skill	√	22/9	I ask my deskmate to teach me how to fold a lily and she is glad to teach me.
* Teach somebody this new skill	√	22/9	My best friend is very clever and she learns it by observing once.
* Make a new friend	√	20/9	Today I encounter the most embarrassing thing in my life. After swiping card, I find that there is only a few cents left and it is not enough to buy anything. A short girl standing next to me helps me and we become good friends.
* Learn how to prevent AIDS	√	July	By reading books on related topic.
* Discuss AIDS with somebody	√	July	I talk about this topic with people when I am reading newspaper.
* Do one task by yourself	√	13/8	I have been very independent and I always work on my own. I believe that it's better to count on myself.
* Do a good thing for the others	√	10/9	At the beginning of school term, one of my classmates is late and she couldn't find a bed. I offer my upper bunk to her and she is very grateful.
* Make people laugh	√	24/9	My deskmate doesn't do well in test and she is frustrated. So I draw a red mark on her hand and press it on the test paper, calling it "the mark of a bloody lesson". When she sees the red mark, she thinks it's funny and bursts into laughter.

Goals	√	Date	How did you do that?
* Improve your academic result	√	10/9	I correct my weakness and work hard on those subjects that I don't do well. I also make clear of those things that I don't understand.
* Send a small gift to somebody	√	23/9	It is the birthday of my roommate but I don't have money to buy her a gift. So I draw the characters of the "Dream of Red Chamber" for her.
* Show somebody this Memory Book	√	23/9	I ask my best friend to help me and she is pleased to help me complete this book.

*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 how 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?
*Read an English book	√	21/9	I set the timetable and the quantity for reading and make clear of the meaning.
*Get into the top 100 students list	√		Hardworking is the only way to success.

*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.*

Page 20

*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,*

Hello! Thank you for bringing me to this world and raising me up. I would also like to apologize for my headstrong and childish behaviours. Though I was not born in a rich family, I am still very contented as I am richer than other kids in terms of independence, self-dependence, resolution and sensibility. I also have a grateful and forgiving heart that rich children seldom have. I have never said "thank you" to you, but I never forget it. You suffer too much hardship in your lives. I promise to let you live a better life in the future where we won't be discriminated against and I will take good care of the elderly. I want to be a teacher when I grow up and my students will be your children. They will learn how to be self-dependent and tough from you. You will live happily when you grow old.

Your daughter

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

Hello! We always fight, but I know that the love between us is strong. Sometimes I make you angry and you always tolerate my headstrongness. I should apologize to you. Also, I thank you for helping me in every way. I hope that we can study hard and be the good children at home and good students in school. It is not easy for children in rural area to receive education and we have to treasure this opportunity. We should study hard and repay the country and our parents in the future. Let's work hard together!

*Dear grandfathers and grandmothers,*

Hello!

You are my dearest grandparents and you love me most. I love you too. I can always learn something new from you and get to know the history. Though you are not young any more, you are there to support us at the critical moment. You set a good example for us with your presence of mind and I would like to thank you for that. You are supposed to be enjoying your retirement but we foolish children always bring you troubles. I must apologize for that. In the future, I will take good care of you so that you can live happily and healthily.

*Dear teachers,*

I think I am really lucky to meet so many good teachers. Every teacher cares about me and I am getting closer to the higher level of education under your guidance. With your help, I also learn the correct attitude towards life. I will take your devotion and dedication as example. Wish you all the best.

*Dear Memory Book,*

Thank you for giving me a chance to express myself. After spending so many days with you, you remind me of so many things that I never noticed before. I come to see the beauty of life. I sincerely thank you for it. I wish you happy all the time.

*Dear World,*

I can't find the right word to express my love for you. It is blissful to live in you. You are so exciting and versatile. Though not everyone loves you, I still find you so adorable. I want to stay in your embrace forever. I wish that you can be beautiful and healthy forever.

## Notes