

The Story of My Day

READ:

Historians learn about life in the past from people who took the time to share details of their daily lives. The Chicago History Museum has 20,000 linear feet of diaries, letters, business records, scrapbooks, and speeches. That is almost 67 football fields, or nearly 14 Willis (Sears) Towers. Some people in the past wrote letters, others drew pictures, and still others kept diaries where they wrote about their lives each day. Families often save these things to share their history from generation to generation. Every day tells a story about you and your family. Take the time to save your story today. Now it's your turn to share the story of your day.

DO:

What is the story of my day?

- Read Justin's letter. Justin and his family lived through the Great Chicago Fire. When the fire ended, Justin wrote a letter and drew a picture which he sent to a friend describing his experiences.
- **Tell** you story with the "My Day Story Starter" sheet to talk, write, or draw your day.
- Record your story with a phone or other mobile device (optional).
 Send your recording to a friend or relative and ask them to tell you about their day.

Approx. Time: 30—45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ Photograph
- ⇒ What I See Page
- ⇒ Pencil or pen
- ⇒ Drawing materials
- ⇒ Camera/Phone (Optional)

SHARE:

Post your writing, drawing, or recording on Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies.



Picture by Justin showing his family during the Great Chicago Fire. ICHi-o63792

Justin's Letter

Justin, whose last name was likely Butterfield, sent a letter and drawing of his family fleeing (see the first page) to his "chum" Philip Prescott on October 19, 1871.

(11)		
	our house I got, some	
Take Forest Oct 19	water and went out	it out at last we
		heard that there was a
Dear Chum,	my brother wint up	little shanty that hadan
We are	on the roof we worked	
burnt out of house and	for one or too hours	d there but had to leave
home and so we had	at the end of that	our trunks and every
to come up here, I	time we had to give up	
suppose you would	we tried to get a	
Tipe to hear about the	wagon but could not	
fire and how we escaped	so we I put two trunks	
from it. Half part one		the sand was blowing
monday mornind we	each of us shouldered	
were awakened dry a	a bundle and we marche	
loud kocking at the	I for the old shatting	wagon drove up and
front door we were		we all piled in a
awake in an instant	we got a lond very well	excuped so good by
and dressing ourselves	until the Vestigo Tumber	yours Justin
ve looked about's and	- for the state of the state of	
		Delress Lake Forest
my a prefect shower	to breath nother caught	Lake County min Buit
of sparks flying over	on fire once but we put	care of Mar Rossiter

Dear Chum,

We are burnt out of house and home and so we had to come up here. I suppose you would like to hear about the fire and how we escaped from it. Half past one Monday morning we were awakened by a loud knocking at the front door we were awake in an instant and dressing ourselves we looked about and saw a perfect shower of sparks flying over our house. I got some water and went out in the yard while my brother went up on the roof we worked for one or two hours at the end of that time we had to give up. We tried to get a wagon but could not so we put two trunks on a wheelbarrow and each of us shouldered a bundle and we marched for the old skating park I leading my goat. We got along very well until the Pes[h]tigo Lumber yard caught on fire then it was all we could do to breathe. Mother caught on fire once but we put it out at last we heard that there was a little shanty that hadn't burnt down so we marched there but had to leave our trunks and everything else but Charlie and father went back and got one but could not get the other as the sand was blowing in their faces and cut like glass at last a wagon drove up and we all piled in and escaped so good by

yours Justin



My Day Story Starter

	Date:
In the morning I:	
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In the offermoon I.	
In the afternoon I:	
In the evening I:	
Today I Saw/Helped/Watched/Made (choose one) :	
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My Day Story Starter My favorite part of my day was: _____ Tomorrow I hope: Draw a picture showing part of your day!

