



Tell Me Your Story

READ:

Some family history is passed down through stories which historians call oral histories. These stories are often shared casually, during dinner or when extended family members are gathered in celebration. Stories connect families across generations and keep culture and traditions strong. Another way to learn family stories is by interviewing family members. Studs Terkel was a famous Chicagoan who interviewed hundreds of people. He recorded their stories and played them on the radio and wrote them down in books. Today, the Chicago History Museum has an oral history center named in his honor, and continues to interview people across the city to save and share their special stories.

DO:

What can you learn by interviewing an adult family member?

- **Talk** to a family member. Use the “Tell Me a Story” sheet to ask questions and write down answers. Feel free to add more questions on another piece of paper!
- **Record** the interview on a phone or other device (optional).
- **Draw** a picture of the story that you heard during the interview.

Approx. Time: 30—45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ Tell Me a Story interview sheet
- ⇒ Pencil or pen
- ⇒ Drawing materials
- ⇒ Phone or recording device (Optional)

SHARE:

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

Another Way to Share Your Story

For the last few years, the Chicago History Museum has been working with the Tenement Museum in New York City and other museums around the country to collect stories about immigration, migration, and cultural identity. If you have a photograph of an object and a story to share, please do!

Visit chicagohistory.org/yourstory for more information.



Studs Terkel interviewing an unidentified person, circa 1960. IChi-065437

Tell Me your Story — Interview Sheet

I'm interviewing: _____

Where did you grow up? _____

What is/was your favorite thing about that place? _____

What places does our family come from? _____

When did we come here? Why?: _____

What is your favorite family tradition? Why?: _____

Tell me one story from when you were my age: _____

