

The following questions are prompts for identifying important family stories (including the extended family) and other stories of childhood. (The tense of the question might vary depending on your age.)

1. What stories are (were) told most often in your family? Why do you think these are told more often than others? What do they reveal about your family?

2. What are some of the earliest stories you remember being told in the family?

3. Do your family stories establish heroes, villains, rogues, martyrs, or some other type? Are you any of these in the stories?

4. What stories are told about you in the family? How do they depict you? How do you feel when you hear them? What significance do you think they have?

5. How was the concept *good person* defined in your home? Bad person? What stories were told to illustrate?

6. How did the stories of your family depict the world outside your family (e.g., a hostile or dangerous place, a place of opportunity, etc.)?

7. What were your recurring fantasies as a child? Any relation to your present fantasies?

8. What stories do you know about your father and mother before they were married? Before they had children? Do they provide any clues to *your* character?

9. Has your attitude toward any of the family stories changed over the years?

10. What are your *favorite* family stories?

11. What are your favorite stories about yourself as a child? Which do you dislike the most? Why? Which do you yourself tell?

12. Are there family photographs which capture part of the story of your family or childhood?

13. Which family stories do you think helped shape who you are today—how you see the world, how you see yourself, what your values are, how you relate to others?

14. Which family stories do you embrace and celebrate? Which do you now see as unhealthy and distorted?

15. What stories are suppressed in your family? Why are they not told?

16. What qualities would you like to see in your family stories in the future? What choices of yours will make it more likely?

17. The first step outside the family is into the neighborhood. Explore the above questions in terms of neighbors, friends, and peers. What *adventure stories* from childhood and adolescence stand out?