

This gift basket contains the supplies for you  
to record your story.

Simply choose a question strip each day from the jar.

Adhere the question strip to the top of  
your journal page and use the question as  
inspiration for your entry that day.

Once completed,  
you will have recorded the story of your journey as a teacher,  
what it has taught you and how it has touched you.

We only hope that this special gift  
and the joy of the process will allow you to see  
just how special you have been to not only our child,  
but countless others as well.

When did you first decide to become a teacher? Why?

What other members of your family were teachers before you? Describe them.

Have any other members of your family become teachers since you? Who? Describe them.

What are some characteristics and qualities of your favorite teacher?

What are some characteristics and qualities of your worst teacher?

Which of your grammar school teachers stands out most in your memory? Why?

Which of your middle-school teachers stands out most in your memory? Why?

Which of your high-school teachers stands out most in your memory? Why?

Write about your favorite subject in grammar school.

Write about your favorite subject in middle school.

Write about your favorite subject in high school.

Write about your worst subject in grammar school.

Write about your worst subject in middle school.

Write about your worst subject in high school.

Write about your best friends in school.

When you first started college, what were you planning on studying? Why?

In all of your college courses, which was your favorite and why?

In all of your college courses, which was your least favorite and why?

What influenced you to choose the college you chose for your undergraduate education?

What influenced you to choose the college you chose for your post-graduate education?

How did starting your own family affect your personality in the classroom? Explain.

How did being a teacher influence you as a parent?

When you were a student, who was your favorite principal and why?

As a teacher, who is/was your favorite principal and why?

Describe the very first teaching job you had.

What is your strongest asset/personality trait/characteristic as a teacher?

What is your weakest characteristic as a teacher?

Looking back, are there any years in particular you spent as a teacher you would like to “do over”?

What was your proudest moment to date as a teacher?

What was your most embarrassing moment to date as a teacher?

What is your favorite subject to teach? Why?

What is your least favorite subject to teach? Why?

How many students do you remember from your first teaching job? Can you describe them at all?

What jobs has your spouse held while you’ve been a teacher? How have they affected you?

Describe how students have changed since you first began teaching? How are they better/worse?

Describe how the changes in technology since you began teaching have altered your teaching style.

Describe any noticeable changes in texts since you began your teaching career. Have they been good/bad?

How has your teaching style changed over the years?

How do outside influences (politics, current events, etc) affect your classroom?

What, if any, major world events have occurred while you were a teacher? How did you handle them?

What has been the most effective way to discipline an unruly child? Explain how/why it works.

Describe 3 things you have learned FROM YOUR STUDENTS.

Describe 3 things you have learned from your students' parents.

Describe how parental involvement has or has not changed over the years since you began your career.

Describe characteristics of the "ultimate" teacher.

Describe characteristics of the most substandard teacher.

How do you feel about how teachers are portrayed on television? Explain.

How do you feel about how teachers are portrayed in movies? Explain.

React honestly to the statement "Those who can, do. Those who cannot, teach."

How do you feel about teachers being labeled "professionals" in the same manner doctors and lawyers are when there is such a discrepancy in training practices and financial reward?

If your child were to come to you tomorrow and tell you s/he wants to become a teacher, would you encourage or discourage the child? How and why?

How has the "No Child Left Behind" act affected your methodology?

Do you continue to recite the Pledge of Allegiance as "One nation under God" despite controversy? Why?

How has your religious background influenced your teaching methodology?

Describe the differences between teaching in a public school vs. a private school.

Describe a typical school day for you now. Draw and label a diagram of your current classroom.

Typically, how do you spend your summers?

Describe the best spring break you had as a teacher.

Describe the worst spring break you had as a teacher.

Describe the best spring break you had as a student.

Describe the worst spring break you had as a student.

Did being a teacher influence your decision as to WHEN to have children (months...)? Explain.

Describe any and all pets you've had in the classroom. If none, why not?

How do you feel about having computers in your classroom? Why?

How do you feel about having a television in your classroom? Why?

Describe all the schools in which you've taught.

Where did you do your student teaching? Describe it. How was the experience?

How did you come about your "classroom rules"? How, if at all, have they changed and why?

If you had it all to do over, would you still become a teacher? Why or why not?

Write an advertisement selling yourself as a teacher.

What about you would you change if it were possible?

What is your favorite thing about yourself?

What is your favorite part of being a teacher?

If you could speak to the country about teacher shortages, what would you say? Why?

How would you attempt to convince congress to spend more money on education?