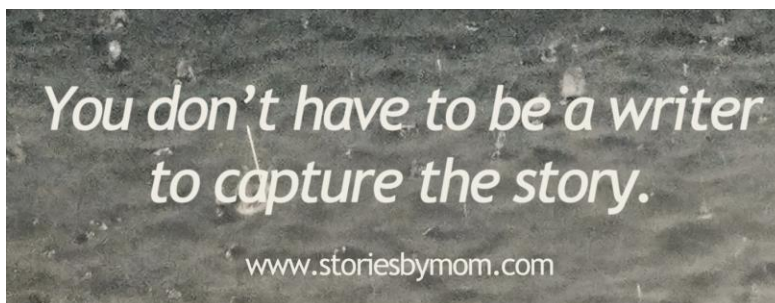


# 7 Steps to Writing a Children's Book Inspired by Your Child

If you have a kid, whether it's your own or one you "adopted" in your heart, you know how much you love them. You make sure that everyone else knows too. We talk, we post, we photograph, and we chronicle every milestone. If you can relate, then you are half way there to your own children's book.



Just remember, don't write to make a million dollars, it will show in your writing, and let us face it; it's probably not going to happen. I know I have accepted this. But, write because you love it, write because you love your child and you want to leave them something special. It's a gift they will remember.



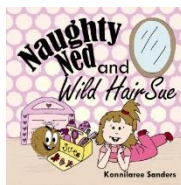
I would love to hear your ideas and stories and if you need any guidance please contact me at [info@storiesbymom.com](mailto:info@storiesbymom.com). Please visit my website to see my own story inspired by the kid I love.

And, thank you for you for downloading this free activity. I hope it encourages your dream to write.

We encourage you to share our activities as much as you like. We just ask that you also please share our website. Stories by Mom is a self-published book and we can use all the help we can get to get it out there. Our goal is to use our books and activities to excite children about reading and encourage growth. We hope they can relate and have fun.



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[Review It](#)  
createspace  
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Discount code: 8GCQZL7Z.

Happy Writing,

— Konnilee Sanders        

# 7 Steps to Writing a Children's Book Inspired by Your Child

## STEP ONE:

Define your character. No matter what you write, your character should drive your plot not the other way around. If you know your character, they will take you where you need to go. Your kid is your cheat sheet.

*"Pick a kid any kid..."* It can be your child, a niece, nephew, grandchild, cousin, friend's child, or a combination of all of them. You are looking for inspiration, not exact imitation. A character should be dynamic and imperfect. Personality is more important the physical characteristics, but sometimes one impacts the other. Write it down.

## STEP TWO:

Find you inspiration. It's the break through moment; the spark; the flash of genius. Your kid said or did the funniest, sweetest, strangest thing. You snap a picture; post it on Facebook, Tweet, text, and share with everyone...Perfect! You have a starting point.

*"Watch and learn..."* Keep a quote collection book. Many of my stories start with one, "What did you say?" or "What the..." Kids, especially ages 3-5, say the most spectacular things. They are finding their place in the world and interpreting it in a unique way. Write it down; combine them to create a vibrant story line.

## STEP THREE:

Begin your Inquisition. Now you have an idea...but no beginning, middle or end. It's time to utilize your child. Put them to work on your idea mill. It's only fair after you spent hours and days taking care of them that they pull some weight.

*"Ask and you shall receive..."* Use the Idea Generator. One question can open up a road to the most amazing world. Keep going and you'll love where you end up.

## STEP FOUR:

Add emotion. This is the easy part. You love you kid, make everyone love them too. Make it silly and make it happy, and make it heartwarming, but never make it too scary.

*"Feelings matter..."* Just like you wish for your child, your protagonist should always have a happy ending. It helps if they show a growing moment. Remember this is just another way to chronicle a milestone.

## STEP FIVE:

Maintain your Muse. When you just can't find the words, ask them to show you. Snap that picture. It's for Instagram anyway.

*"Strike a pose..."* This not only allows you to add pictures to your book, it often inspires more ideas. Plus, it incorporates your child into the writing process. Most kids love to help, but are limited in their capabilities. This is a great way inspire and encourage children that they can do more; their opinion matters. You are having fun and building their self-esteem.

## STEP SIX:

Write, Read, Rewrite, Edit, Proofread, Rewrite again. Ask what did I get myself into? Writing is a process, but that doesn't mean it has to be hard. There is so much information out there. You just have to find it.

*"Let it be done!"* If you love what you're writing, you'll find a way to finish. Just don't let your perfectionism turn into procrastination. You'll be so happy you stuck with it. At this point you can add your photographs, illustrations, or just the doodles you attempted to sketch., "it sorta looks like a dog..." You don't have to be an artist to express yourself.

## STEP SEVEN:

Bring it together. You can create your book in handwritten form, you can print it from your computer, or you can have it printed for personal use through Blurb, or Shutterfly, or even Self Publish.

*"Rocking the good vibes..."* You wrote a book! Bask in your glory, do a little jig. Hug and thank your child. Then read it to your kid until they grown tired of it. But, that may not be until the 500th reading. That's about how many times I read, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar".

## Can You Repeat that?

### Quote Journal

Did your kid ever say something that made you stop everything you were doing? The answer is, “yes.” Kids have a way of finding their way in this world in an incredible way. This usually elicits an emotional response from us. Whether it is humor, love, or down right shock. We all have a story to tell. Use this journal to write them down. When they grow older, you can remind them that they once had something to say.

It's simple fill in the date. We all think we will remember it forever, but it can slip away from us.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

In the Quote bubble, write what they said, what your response was, and what made it stand out. It is that easy.

**See Templates Pages 4-10**

## What If?

### Idea Generator

There are a thousand ways to ask a question or probe for information. This is intended as a guideline and idea starter. You know how to talk to your own child without my help. Remember to use vocabulary they understand or teach them one of the new words below.

Ask Who, What, Where, How, and Why. Below are topics to consider.

THOUGHTS	WORLD VIEWS	IMAGINATION	FEELINGS	DREAMS
LOVES	HUMOR	FOOD OPINIONS	RULES	POINT OF VIEW
LIFE EXPERIENCE	MEMORIES	PROCESSES	GAMES	FAVORITES

### Sample Questions:

What are your thoughts on – ?

What do you think – is?

What do you wish was real and why?

How did you feel when – ?

What is your best or worst dream?

What do you love most about – ?

What is the funniest thing you ever saw?

If you were to make your own food, what would it be?

If you ruled the world, what would you do?

Who is your hero in life?

Do you remember when – ?

How do you see that going down?

How do you do that?

Have you ever made up a game?

What is your favorite possession, color, animal, anything?

*If you've already picked a plot, then let your story guide you. With, "I Miss You All Day All Week" I asked Abigail about what activities she would do with dad, and why would he not be able to stay home, etc...*



Memory

It was so weird  
and quirky

It was  
the BEST idea

It  
was so  
funny

It was  
something I  
had to  
share

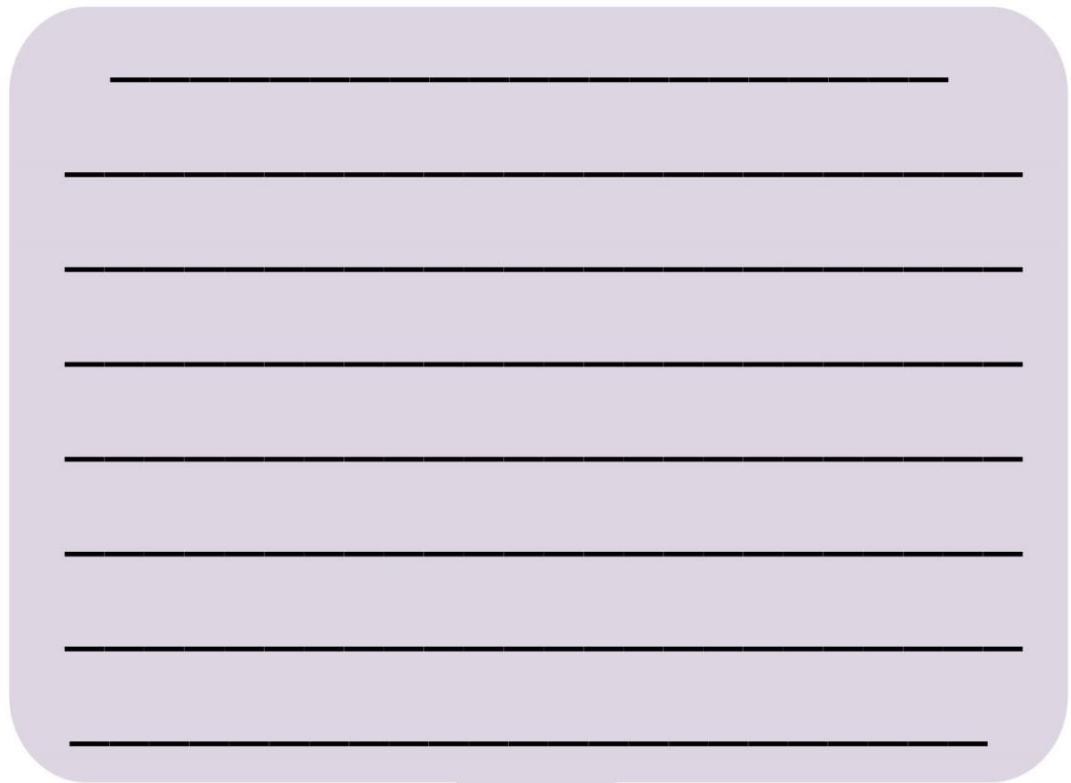
It  
was so  
sweet and  
adorable

It  
was something  
I couldn't forget

# Can You Repeat That? Quote Journal

It was  
GREAT

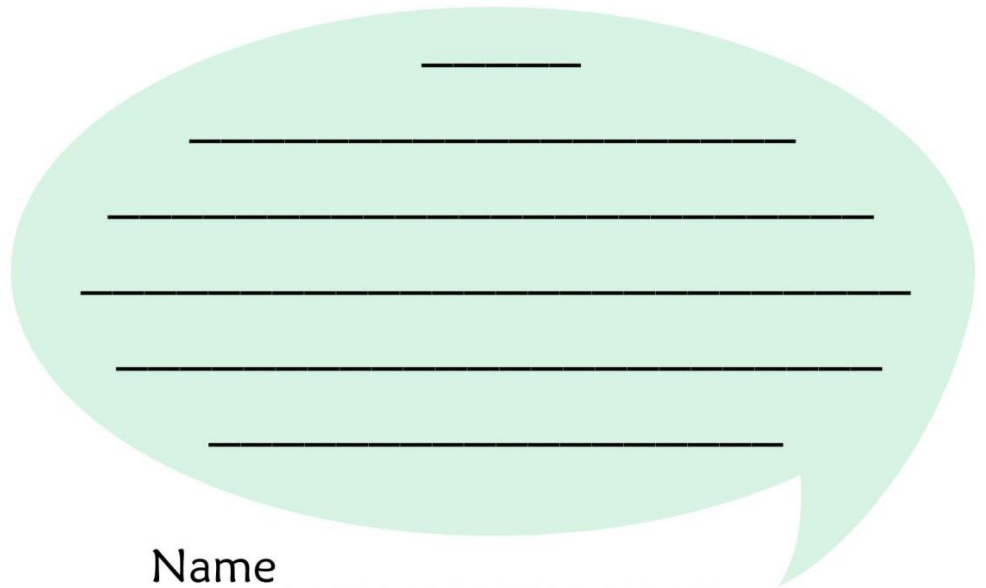
It was  
Interesting



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Place \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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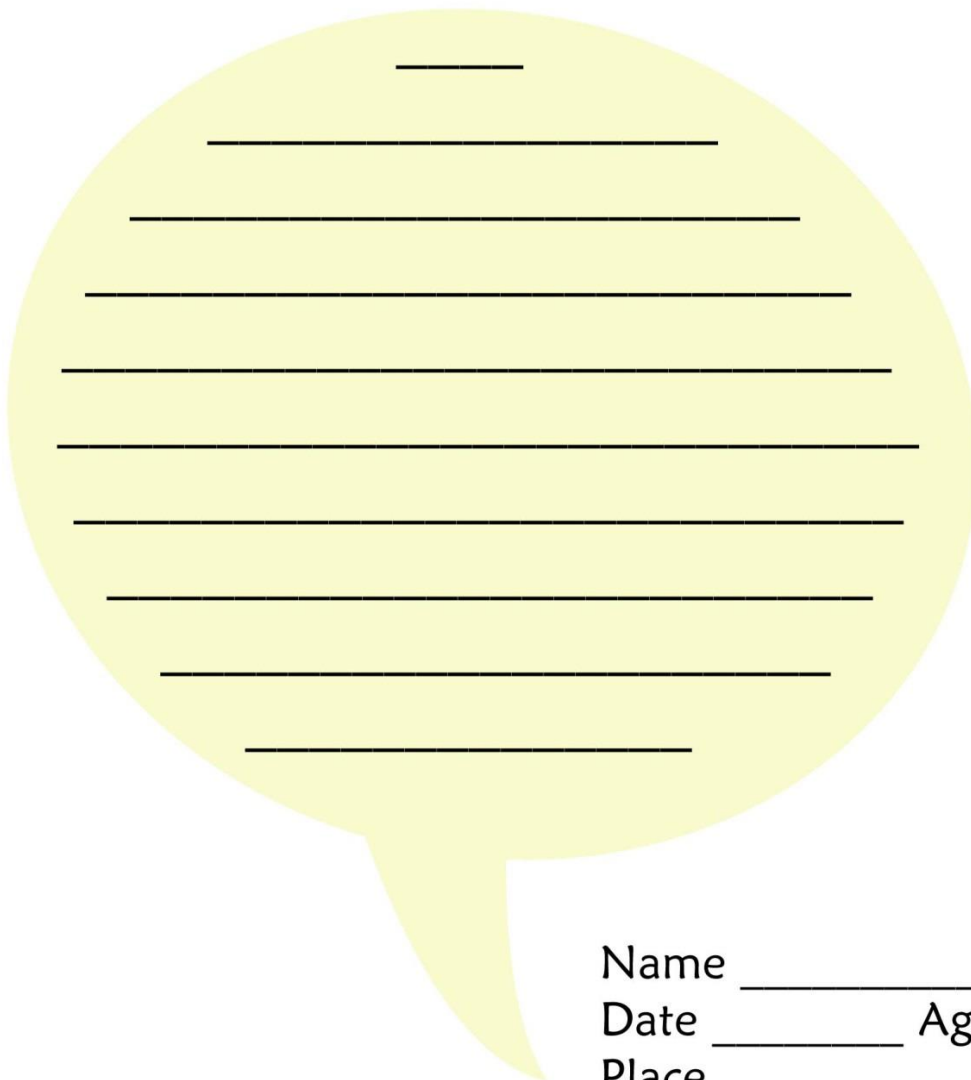
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Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_



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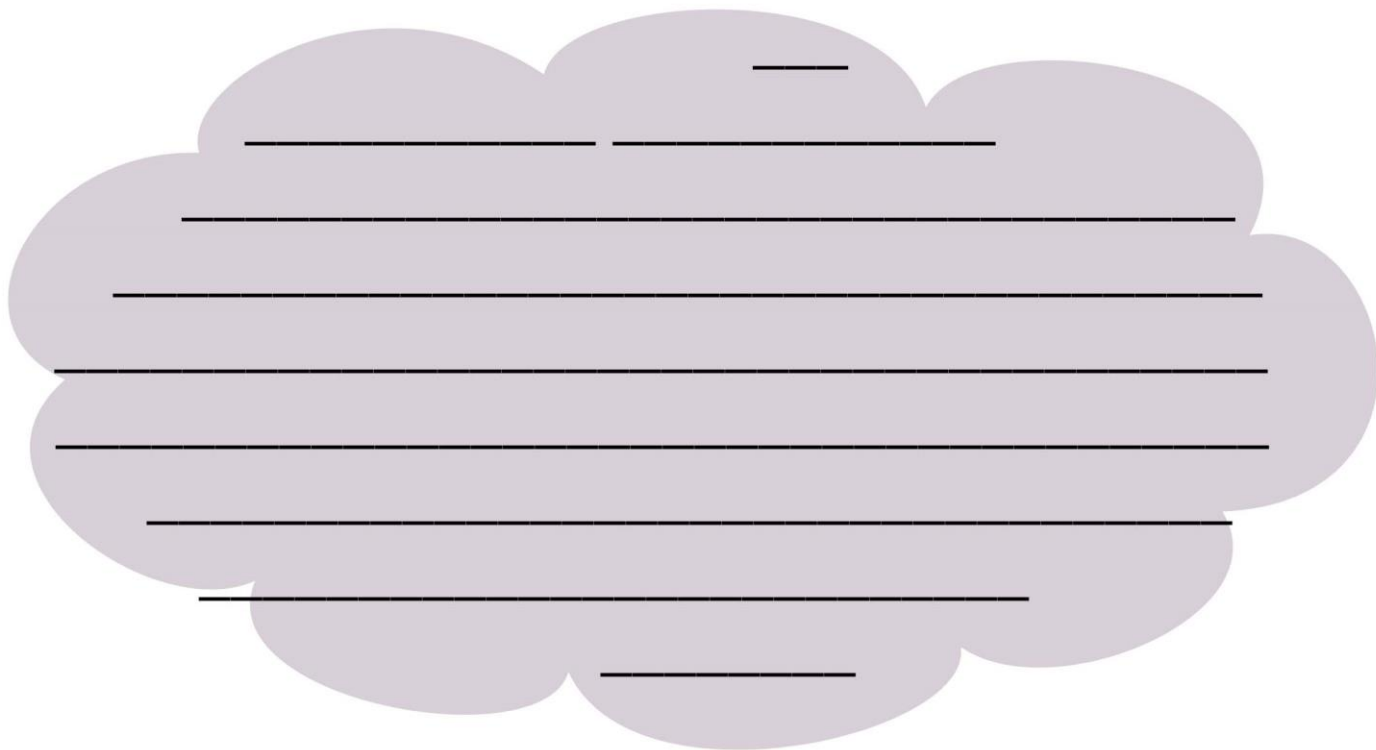
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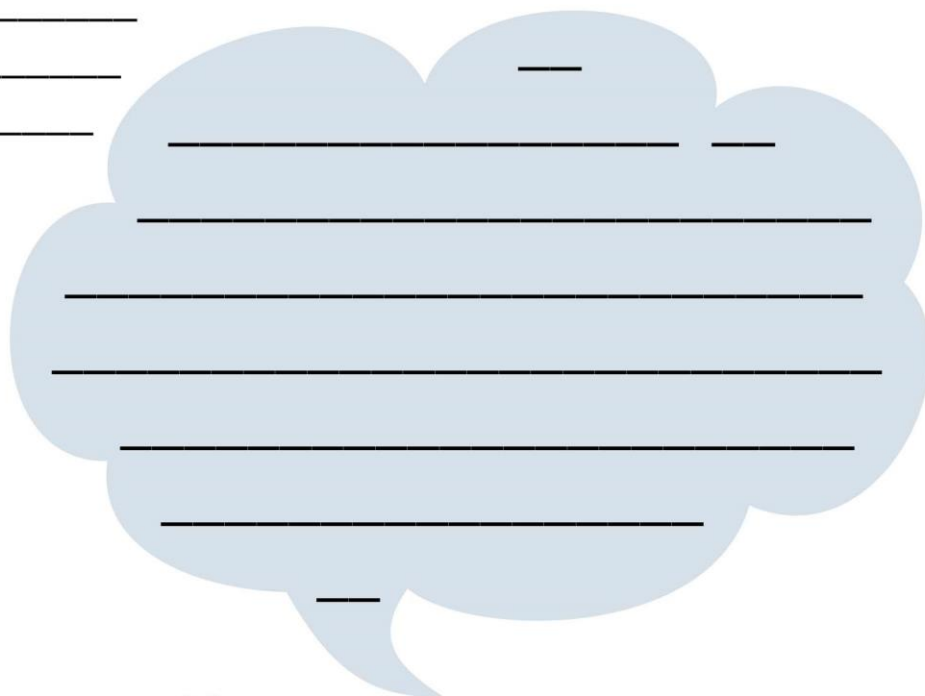
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Place \_\_\_\_\_



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

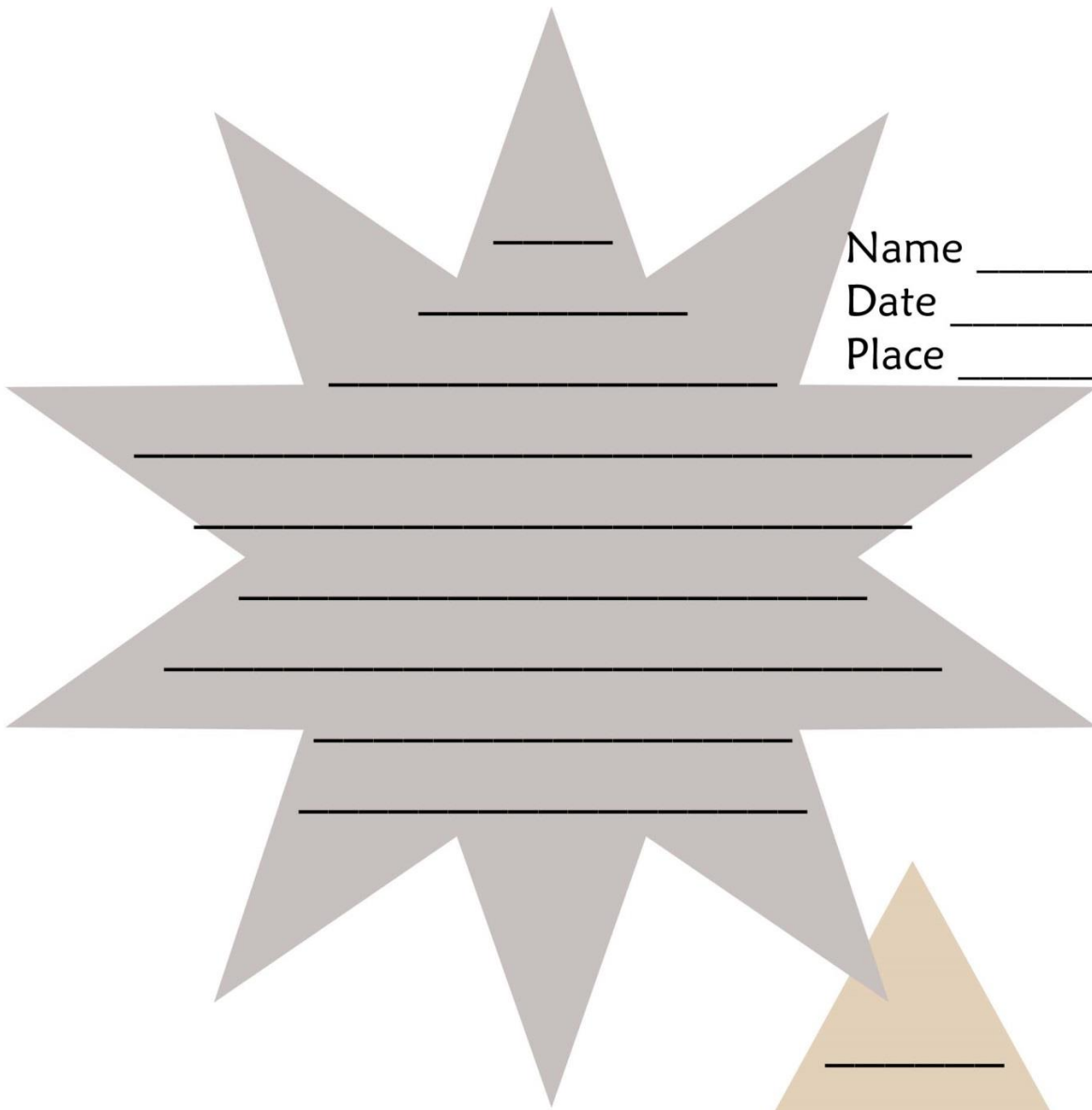
A large, light purple heart shape with horizontal lines for writing. The lines are arranged in a way that they follow the curve of the heart, with more lines in the wider upper part and fewer lines in the narrower lower part. There are 11 lines in total.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Place \_\_\_\_\_

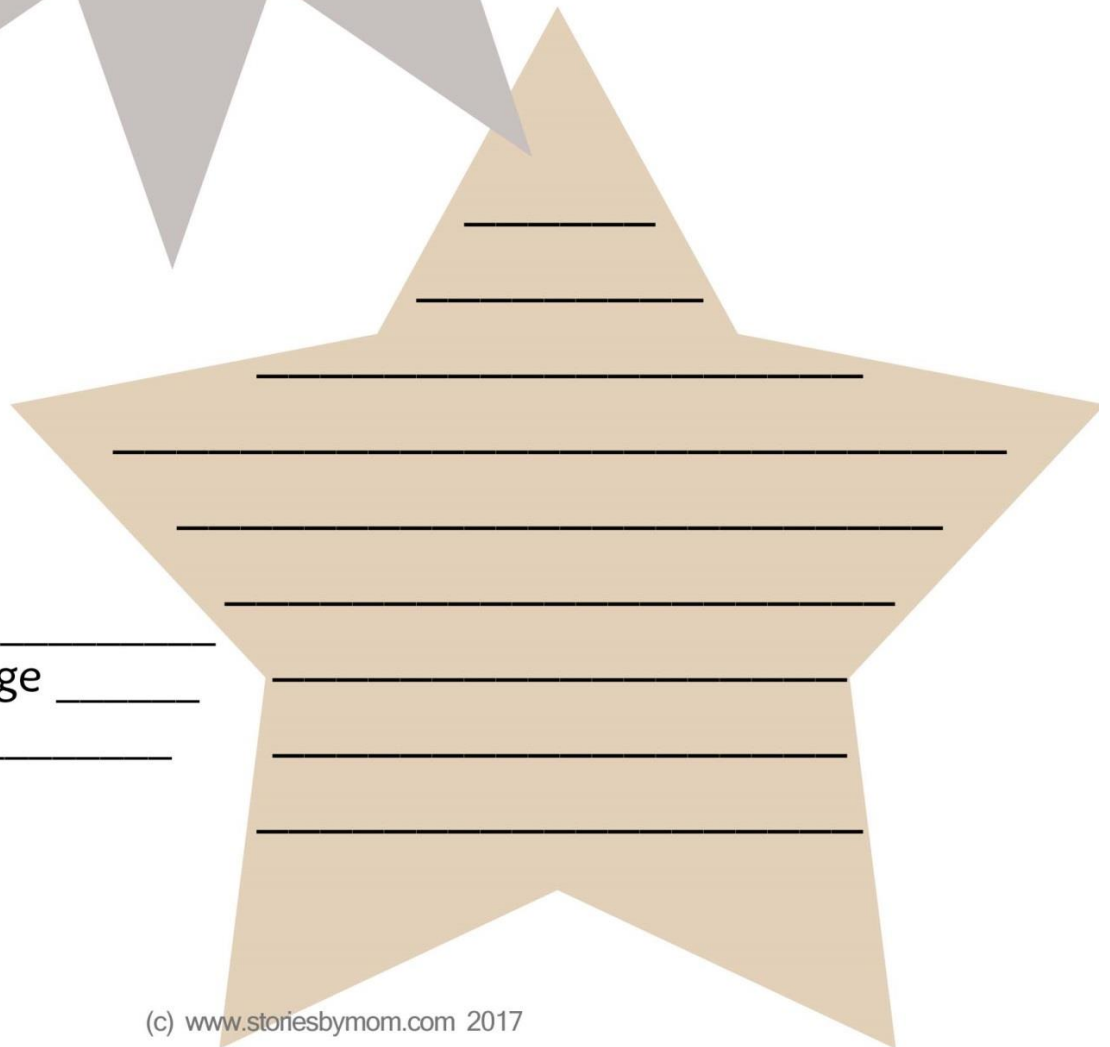
A large, pink heart shape with horizontal lines for writing. The lines are arranged in a way that they follow the curve of the heart, with more lines in the wider upper part and fewer lines in the narrower lower part. There are 11 lines in total.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Place \_\_\_\_\_





Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Place \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Place \_\_\_\_\_

A large, light brown rectangular area with a scalloped border and horizontal lines for writing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Place \_\_\_\_\_

A large, light green rectangular area with a scalloped border and horizontal lines for writing.