

Sixty Mems for Sixty Years

The Greenhalghs

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Introduction

Over the last 6 to 35 years, we have each amassed hundreds of memories featuring you—from exciting trips we've taken to quiet moments at home and everything in-between. You've been there for each of us, bolstering and comforting us in hard times, celebrating our accomplishments, lending a listening ear, explaining everything from a 5k to a 401k, sharing pun after pun, giving book recommendations, and so much more.

To celebrate 60 years of Dad/Brett/Papa (and to be ahead of the game for Father's Day), we've compiled a list of 60 key memories with and about you. This isn't an exhaustive list of the things we love and cherish about you by any means, but we think that it is representative of all the ways you've shown up in our lives and the ways we know you will continue to inspire, encourage, uplift, and love each of us.

Thank you for all you do for us and for being an amazing dad, father-in-law, and papa. We love you!

Love, Spencer, Kathryn, Élo, Preston, Corynn, Maddie, Connor, Mitch, and Simon

Chapter 1

Ironman Mems

Mem #1 (Corynn)

I know the Ironman in Waco was miserable for you, but I love these photos I got of three, tall, blurry men crossing the finish lines with their arms in the air. You and your friends were all so supportive of each other!



Mem #2 (Simon)

After my junior year of high school, I thought my swimming career was over (and happily so). But in the likes of Tom Brady and Michael Jordan, most star athletes come out of retirement eventually. When you called me and presented the idea of Connor, Mitchell, and I teaming up to compete in the half Ironman as a relay, I was certainly skeptical. I'd never swam in open water and definitely hadn't come close to swimming over one mile before. I even contemplated buying a nicer bike than Mitchell's just to have a reason why I should be the cyclist and not the swimmer. But I figured this was going to be a fun experience and a great way to bond with my siblings, and I knew how important these races were to you. I trained way harder than I thought I would and ended up really enjoying the process. I'll never forget the moment right before diving in Sandy Hollow Reservoir. You were so excited, and I was proud of myself for making the commitment to compete alongside you. Even though my swimming career really might be over this time, I am proud to call my dad an Ironman and that we got to do that together. No one can take away my Ironman accomplishment away from me.



Mem #3 (Connor)

I've spent countless hours running and racing, but one of my favorite races was the 70.3 in St. George. Even though the heat was strong, and I ended up with mild heat exhaustion, that was the most fun racing environment I've ever experienced. It was fun to participate in a sixth of what you've done several times. I always knew an Ironman was an impressive feat, but doing the relay made me realize it was even more impressive than I imagined.



Chapter 2

Bike Mems



Mem #4 (Élo)

When you used to pull me in the trailer for your bike, that was fun. This was before I had my own bike or knew how to ride a bike, so it was nice to go on a bike trip without needing to ride the bike myself. I think I remember you taking me to the park in your neighborhood. You've taken me to the park a lot, and it has always been lots of fun.



Mem #5 (Nigel)

I still don't know why I dubbed myself Nigel long ago, but it happened in the bike shop where I first fell in love with bikes. That trip on those Maine gravel roads, despite Simon's paranormal traumas, has resonated peace within me for years. I still feel it whenever I'm on a bike.



Mem #6 (Mitchell)

I'll cap the bike stories off with this one, because there are dozens of unique memories associated with two-wheelers, but downtown Rabbit Hash deserves its own memorial. I remember I was dead by the time we first reached the general store, and even though it wasn't a noticeably busy weekend, there were still bikers everywhere. It was a special view into the local community that biking can create.

Chapter 3

Sports Mems

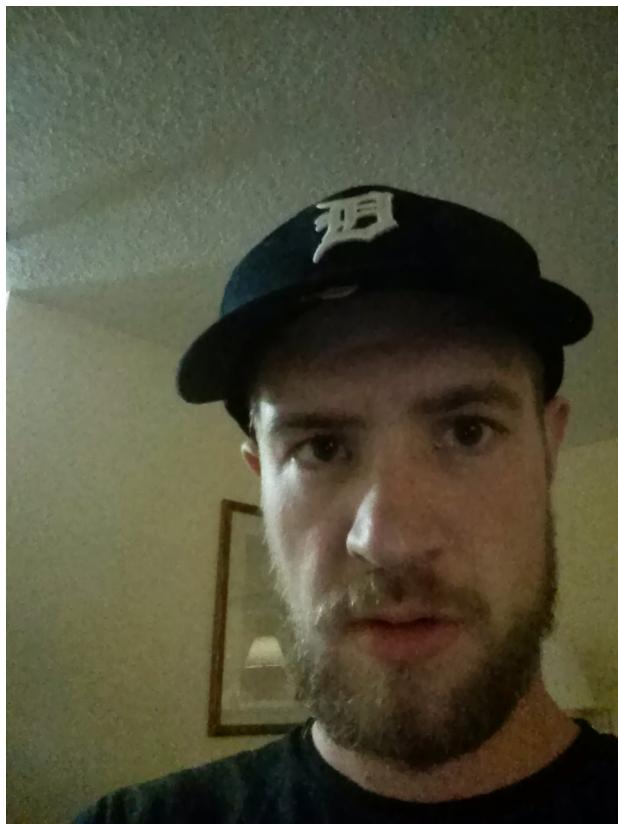


Mem #7 (Connor)

Going to sporting events with you have been great memories. I loved when you were able to get box seats with catered food. One of my favorite times was going to a Xavier basketball game. I didn't know we had special seats, so I was surprised when you took us away from the main gate with everyone else. You introduced me to someone—I think his name was Jay—who was an actuary. Sports were the initial reason why I wanted to study statistics, so it was fun for me to meet someone who had similar career interests as me while at a basketball game.

Mem #8 (Preston)

Several times when visiting home I would inherit some hats from you. Among those were hats from the collection of teams that beat the Yankees in the play-offs. Whenever I wore those hats I would get comments from people I knew. “Oh, I didn’t know you were a Tigers fan!” or “You’re a Rays fan? I thought you liked the Reds.” Then I would explain why my Dad collected random baseball team hats and without fail everyone gets a kick out of that story.



Mem #9 (Simon)

One time in the mid-2000s we were cleaning the church and after we were done I remember hanging out in the gym, and you attempted to dunk a basketball. I remember thinking it was cool that my dad could jump so high and hoping that one day I could dunk like you.

Chapter 4

Red River Gorge Mems



Mem #10 (Simon)

I remember you taking Connor, Mitchell, and me to Red River Gorge for our first trip together. This was way before you took on the Arch Hunter persona. I remember you forgot our toothbrushes, and you taught us the “finger brush” trick. We saw a bobcat outside Koomer Ridge campground, and I thought that was so cool. It was so hot on the last day, and I think my nine-year-old self was convinced I was going to die of heat exhaustion. We ran out of water with a mile left to go and once we got back to the car we all took turns drinking orange juice straight out of the bottle. OJ has never tasted as good as it did in that moment. That was the first camping trip I remember and have probably gone camping 50+ times after that, but this one will always be one of my favorites.



Mem #11 (Connor)

One of my favorite Gorge trips was just the two of us. I can't remember exactly where we were, but it was nice to spend the day in my favorite place in Kentucky with you. I remember we got off the main trail for a bit and had to get back. We ran into a couple who seemed to be completely unaware of where they were on the map.

Mem #12 (Mitchell)

There are so many memories from the Gorge, and there are two that are particularly special to me. For the first, I don't remember which visit it was, but it was one of our first ones. Even though I was a little terrified when it happened, I remember the cicada brood being out and having to do "cicada checks" every time we went back in the tent. I had no idea how cute and harmless they actually were, and I was honestly freaked out by it all, but having jumped off the diving board into a pool filled with bugs, I remember that fondly every time I pick up a cicada. Secondly, I remember the palpable National Treasure vibes on the day we set out to find Star Gap arch. We were exploring for a while, and I was starting to get a little exasperated that we hadn't found it when we sat down for a break at the end of a ridge. I don't remember if I said it out loud or if it was an internal monologue, but I wondered to myself if we were on top of the arch. Lo and behold, we were. The sense of adventure and discovery of the unexpected in nature has been very important in my life, and that moment was an influential piece of that puzzle.



Chapter 5

Watching TV in European Hotel Rooms Mems



Mem #13 (Maddie)

Eurovision was on when we were in Germany together, and I have such fond memories of us coming back to the hotel after a long day of exploring and gorging on German food and tuning into Eurovision to discuss our opinions on the various acts. Though I'm still deeply disappointed that Lena won for her dumb song "Satellite" and that Georgia and the other countries we were rooting for were robbed of the title, I'm so happy to have that memory of us snacking on Ritter Sport and Prinzen Rollen while watching Europe battle it out on stage



Mem #14 (Spencer)

I have a lot of great memories of my senior trip to France with you, but one of my favorites was my first encounter with döner kebabs. Having kebabs for dinner wasn't a planned part of that evening; I think it was just a spur of the moment thing ("Oh, Spence, you have to do this"), and I don't even remember if we saw a kebab place and decided to get dinner to go or if you thought about kebabs and trusted that any decent-sized European city would have a kebab place if we walked far enough (though maybe not as far as Colmar). What I do remember is that we both ordered beef kebab-frites, and even though I had been struggling with all of our transactions in French that whole trip, I noticed this time that the guy was undercharging us for our food. When I brought it up, he waved it off and told us to enjoy our dinner. We walked back to our hotel, found a World Cup qualifier game on the TV, ate our kebab-frites, did some calculus homework (maybe that was just me), and had a great night in.

Mem #15 (Connor)

Of the many things that I enjoyed in our Germany/Spain trip, I really enjoyed watching the World Cup of Darts championship round in our hotel room. I remember cheering on the Netherlands as they beat England. I found an appreciation for how smart the “darters” are. I learned how they have to quickly determine which sector of the board they are aiming for based on their previous darts and the score.



Chapter 6

Other European Travel Mems



Mem #16 (Maddie)

On the way to one of the museums we visited in Berlin, we passed through a street fair featuring various booths from artisans and other small businesses. I took my time walking through it, admiring the various wares and pointing out things that I liked. One of the booths I lingered for the longest was for an artist that carved little animals out of wood. There was this owl about the size of the palm of my hand that had three tiny owls that nested within it. I don't even remember saying that I liked it, but you must have noticed how enamored I was with it, because on the way back from the museum, we passed through that same street fair and you went straight to the woodworker's booth. I asked you what you were doing, and you immediately picked up the owl and bought it for me. To this day, it's one of my favorite belongings, and whenever I move, one of the first things I do when unpacking is decide where my beloved little owl belongs.

Mem #17 (Miguelton, or Big [Noggin] Mitch)

Por solamente tres días nos hospedamos en Barcelona, pero para mí eran muy importantes. Recuerdo la primera conversación con la posadera, y especialmente las reacciones de vosotros. Aprender español me fue sencillo y lógico, pero me enseñó mucho sobre el mundo. Mucho de ese viaje ha quedado conmigo. Me falta todavía la habilidad de replicar las sensaciones que me sentía en La Sagrada Familia. Qué temor y admiración. Esos momentos los guardaré queridos por toda mi vida.

We only spent three days in Barcelona, but they were very important to me. I remember the first conversation I had with that lady who owned the place and the reactions from everyone upon its termination. To me Spanish was simple and logical, but it taught me so much about the world. A lot of that trip has stayed with me. I am still incapable of replicating the feelings I felt in the Sagrada Familia. Such awe and wonderment. I will hold those moments dear to me for all my life.

Mem #18 (Preston)

Our trip to Germany is one of my fondest memories, and I'm really thankful that you gave me that experience despite not meeting the three-year foreign language requirement. I remember telling you that I wasn't jet lagged at all, then immediately sleeping in the car and train, where I snored the whole way. I also remember that the first thing we had to do was stop at a gas station to pick up some Magnum bars. Perhaps my favorite part was all the castle visits, and now whenever I think about the idea of going back to Germany or Europe, castles would be at the top of my list of things to see.



Mem #19 (Spencer)

I had a great time visiting Crans-Montana with you and Mom after my mission, and I hope you're serious about your plans to retire there someday so that I have an excuse to go back. Before putting it on our list of places to visit, I had only spent one evening there, so it was fun to explore the town with you kind of for the first time. It was neat to find the out-of-the-way Swiss version of Cristo Redentor, see how mountaintop tennis courts are designed, and share a bottle of the weird Swiss "dairy soda" (though I probably should have warned you before disappearing into the store to buy it). The uncontested highlight of that day, though, was when our rental GPS took us into that farmer's driveway and we had to get directions from him (the same directions he'd given to countless other people with rental GPSs) to get the rest of the way there. If memory serves, that same GPS also freaked the heck out when we drove through what it thought was a field but was actually a very new road on our way to Gruyères.



Mem #20 (Connor)

My favorite hike of all time has been Quiraing in The Isle of Skye. I'll never forget the feelings I had as I admired a beautiful green landscape. Hiking is definitely one of the many interests that you helped pass onto me and that hike helped me understand my passion for hiking but also in the environment.



Chapter 7

Other Travel Mems

Mem #21 (Preston)

Although I don't remember much of the trip, going on our South Carolina trip means a lot to me. My only two memories from that trip are climbing up large boulders on a nature trail and seeing a huge tortoise at the zoo. But it isn't really the few memories I have that are so meaningful to me, but more that you were willing to plan out a trip and hang out with me just because I wrote a persuasive essay about wanting to visit the place where I was born because I had no memory of it. It would have been an easy thing to brush off or replace with something more practical, but instead you were willing to make a fun trip out of it.

Mem #22 (Simon)

Even though I boycotted the trip, I have a ton of great memories from the Maine trip. The highlights are hiking, ice cream, biking, whale watching, and surviving an extraterrestrial visit. But what I will always remember is going running with you one morning. Connor and Mitchell went running separately and I felt a little left out because I wasn't on the cross country team yet, and I knew I couldn't keep up with them. You could obviously tell and invited me to go with you. I was nervous because I'd never run over three miles before, and you pushed me to run four. I felt really accomplished and that is what gave me the confidence to join the cross country team the following fall.

Mem #23 (Corynn)

Going to Yosemite with you, Janice, and my family was a blast. I'm so grateful to have in-laws that have similar interests to my parents. What I really appreciated, though, was the concern you showed for Jamie, both on that trip and the months after. The wedding-that-never-happened was obviously horrible for her, and it meant a lot to me when you would ask how she was doing.



Mem #24 (Maddie)

At one point during the awesome (“haunted” cabins aside) Maine trip after I graduated high school, we were in a parking lot of some sort. Maybe it was before/after a hike or bike ride? Honestly, I’m not really sure. What I do remember is mom and I going to the bathroom or back to the car or something and when we came back, you were scurrying up this giant boulder alongside the parking lot with the triplets. We couldn’t have been gone more than a few minutes, and it felt like we’d just turned around and BAM! You were all on top of a huge rock, happy as can be. It was such a small, insignificant moment in the grand scheme of things, but it makes me think of how you’re always up for an adventure and excited to solve a problem. Even if that problem is “How do we scale a rock face with only one tiny tree to aid us?” I can only imagine how much fun it was for the triplets to have their dad climbing up with them, and even though I had absolutely no interest in spontaneous rock climbing, I sure had a fun time watching you guys.



Mem #25 (Simon)

Any time Jim Evans was around I always thought it was fun/rambunctious. I think it's funny that he calls you "Greenhalgh" and will try to wrestle you. I don't know anyone else who can get away with that, and he has a way of bringing out the fun in you. My favorite memories with us are when we went biking on Antelope Island, snowmobiling in the Uintas, riding horses at his cabin, and you falling asleep in a hammock and getting a gnarly sunburn.



Mem #26 (Maddie)

After The Best Thanksgiving Ever (Simon's words, not mine), you and Mom stuck around for an extra day or two and flew out of the Providence airport, so we took a little trip to Newport. On the drive there, I remember feeling strange about me being in the driver's seat and you being in the passenger seat, because I was so used to it being the other way around. It was my first time in Rhode Island, actually, and it was so fun to tour the mansions with you and mom and gawk at the grandeur there. They were already decorated for Christmas, so they were even more over the top than usual. I also loved the cliff walk we took together, even though it was cold and windy. The hotel we stayed in had this roll-top desk that I coveted, and I remember doing part of a grad school assignment at it. It was such a short trip, but is nevertheless one of my favorite travel memories.



Chapter 8

Coming to Visit Us Mems

Mem #27 (Corynn)

Taking you to the Charlottesville apple orchard was like throwing a kid into a candy factory. One day we will go back and get more apple cider donuts.





Mem #28 (Élo)

It was fun when we did the castle escape room with you and Gigi for my sixth birthday. I am not old enough to figure out all the clues on my own, so I like doing it with you guys! We also did an escape room with Uncle Preston one time when he visited us in Cincinnati. You helped me get the last piece we needed and run to the final door so that we could win just in time.

Mem #29 (Preston)

I have a deep appreciation for passing down your love of hiking and outdoor adventure to me. One of my fond memories was when you and Simon visited Corynn and me in Charlottesville. Naturally we had to do a Shenandoah trip, and it turned into probably the most eventful hike among the many trips we had done after seeing six bears during that hike. It remains my only Shenandoah hike that I saw any bears!

Chapter 9

Media Mems

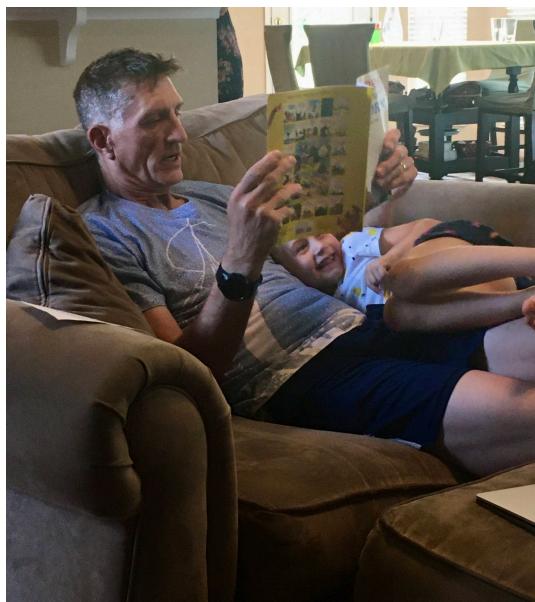


Mem #30 (Maddie)

We watched *Elf* on Christmas Eve for several years in a row, and my favorite part of watching the movie was always watching you watch it. Year after year you giggled at the exact same jokes as though it were the first time you'd ever heard them, and it always made me laugh as well. I often spent more time paying attention to your reactions to the movie than I did actually watching the movie. And who can forget the year that you tried your hand at Buddy's escalator technique—and improved upon it, if we're being honest—at the zoo lights?

Mem #31 (Élo)

I loved when you got me the book *Big Bad Bruce*, by Bill Peet. I always like going to your house and listening to you read me Bill Peet books. When I got a Bill Peet book of my own, I really liked it because it reminds me of you. I also love the other books you've gotten me and read with me.



Mem #32 (Spencer)

Dad, every time you suffer through another family game night even though games aren't really your thing, I remember a particular Christmas. It was the year that I got *Axis and Allies* and that Preston got a CD of James Bond music. I spent a bunch of time that afternoon listening to that CD while setting up the game (I still can't think of one without thinking of the other), and then somehow I convinced you to play it with me, even though it's more tedious and more complicated than any of the family games that already test your patience. It's one of those memories that means more to me in hindsight because I know it wasn't your favorite thing, but I mattered enough to you for it to be worth a try.

Chapter 10

Our Events Mems

Mem #33 (Connor)

I know there were a lot of reasons for you to leave Tire Discounters, but it made me feel really happy that one of the reasons was that you wanted to spend your Saturdays watching our cross country meets. It made the meets better knowing that I had a father who cared enough to come and support me. At our senior year banquet, you spoke on behalf of the parents, and I felt a lot of gratitude knowing how much you involved yourself in my interests. When I am racing, one of the few voices I can pick out from the crowd is yours.



Mem #34 (Maddie)

Two days before my Emerson graduation, you completed an Ironman and then almost immediately took a redeye flight from Utah (I think) all the way to Boston. You were probably more exhausted than I have ever been in my entire life, but you still made it a priority to come celebrate with me, and it made me feel so loved. You not only sat through an entire graduation (though I do maintain it was probably one of the least painful ones you've had to go to—that drumline was pretty cool) but then toured Boston with me. Sorry for laughing so hard at how stiffly you moved when you went up the stairs to the *U.S.S Constitution*—it was just really funny.



Mem #35 (Élo)

When you came to my dance recitals, I loved that, because I love you! It makes me feel happy that you could come, even though that's a long way to drive for a short dance. I liked that you showed me Cyndi Lauper's music video after I danced to "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" in my Fall 2022 recital. You asked me later to do the dance for Mommy, who missed the recital, but I had forgotten how to do the steps.

Chapter 11

Other People Also Think You're Great Mems

Mem #36 (Spencer)

I love hearing your parents talk about you. I don't have a specific memory of this, because it's happened several times over the years when I've been with Grandma and Grandpa Greenhalgh when you weren't around. They tell stories about you that I haven't heard or share accomplishments that you haven't shared with us, and it's so clear from what they say that they're proud of you—and it makes me proud of you, too.



Mem #37 (Mitchell)

One of my favorite memories of you doesn't actually involve you at all. You were over 4,000 miles away in Kentucky, and I was in (your buddy) Dean's living room. The first time I went to my namesake's home, he pulled me aside after dinner and pulled out a folder. In that folder were photos, letters, and mementos from your adolescence and time at BYU. Though the slang in the letters has since changed, not much else has. You have always been a genuine, loving, and thoughtful person. That insight into your character still fills me with admiration and love for you. I hadn't ever believed you were anything different before I was brought to this world, but seeing your legacy in the lives of your loved ones decades later made me even prouder to be your child.



Mem #38 (Spencer)

Between my face, my height, and my last name, it's not uncommon for people who know you to recognize me before I get a chance to introduce myself. I always get a kick out of this, especially since they universally have a high opinion of you, so I leave a good first impression without much effort (though I then find myself working hard to make sure I live up to your stellar reputation!). My favorite example of this is with Jana Riess; the first thing she ever said (well, tweeted) to me was, "Are you related to my fantastic stake president?"

Chapter 12

Adulting Advice Mems

Mem #39 (Preston)

I remember feeling like I was finally a true responsible adult when I was applying and working on graduate school applications. Then when I was on my way to visit UVA, my rental car got messed up. I knew I still had so much to learn when I realized I didn't have a credit card, only a debit card, and frankly probably didn't really understand the difference between the two. Of course when I run into problems, I always would call you because somehow you always knew what to do, or could figure it out way faster than I could.



Mem #40 (Kathryn)

You're always willing to give advice and talk through how to do things, whether it be related to money, jobs, traveling, etc. That makes me appreciate the times I feel like I get to contribute something in return. I feel like we've updated your house with a fair amount of technology over the years, whether you've liked it or not, haha! But I'm glad you've been willing to trust me and let me fiddle with the set-ups. I remember the time you'd decided to buy a new TV, and I had fun looking through all the options for you and picking a TV that you ended up perfectly squeezing into the cabinet.



Mem #41 (Maddie)

A few days before I moved to Boston, you came home from work and gave me jumper cables, a flashlight for my glove box, and a tire gauge. You then took me out to the driveway and gave me a refresher course on how to change a tire. The first time I used those jumper cables (on a roommate's car, not mine, luckily), I thought again about how touching it was that you wanted to make sure I was prepared and taken care of in the event of car troubles. You've always shown love in little ways like that. Sometimes I think you pay closer attention to Boston weather than I do, because I'll often receive a text from you a day or two before a big snowstorm checking to make sure I have shovels and ice melt—many times I've received that text and not even known that a storm was coming.

Chapter 13

Food Mems

Mem #42 (Preston)

I really appreciate that I learned from you about how to be responsible with my money, but also to make sure to have fun in life. Often when we go out for food, you insist on making it a good experience, whether it's emphatically ordering a second round of the goat cheese dumplings from the Asian fusion restaurant in Charlottesville, buying both the apple cider donuts and apple caramel cookies from Carter Mountain Orchard (on top of the who knows how many bushels of apples), or making sure we have entirely way too many ribs per person at Eli's.

Mem #43 (Kathryn)

I've always appreciated your willingness to stop for tasty treats, often buying a smorgasbord of pastries or candy bars so that we can all try different kinds. I also know that you love donuts, and I remember asking Janice once about what your favorite kind of donut is and learning the difference between cake and yeast donuts. Since then I feel like I've been on a quest to discover the perfect chocolate frosted cake donut for you—the kind that makes you want to go back to the shop and get some more. I love eating donuts with you, and though it's probably happened more than once now, I still remember the time Élo and I woke up early to get some donuts for you, and you ended up bringing donuts down from Oakbrook Bakery, too. A great double-donut day for all.



Chapter 14

Poetry and Prose Mems

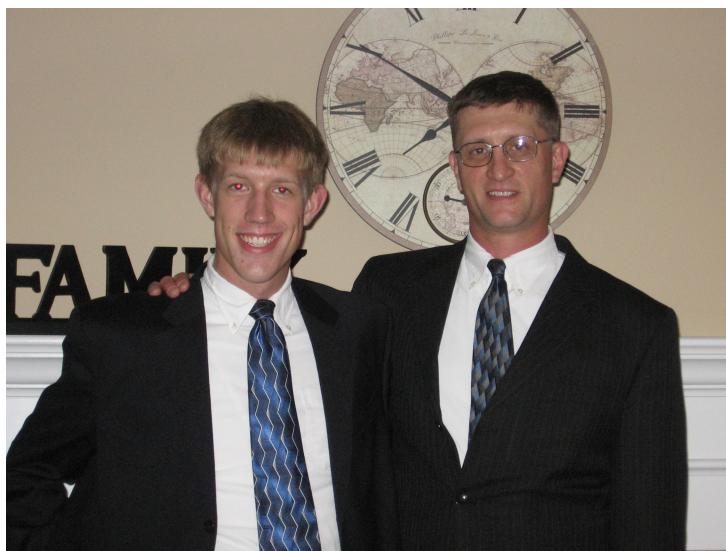
Mem #44 (Preston)

*Knowledge from father
Puns, primes, everything German
And of course, haikus*



Mem #45 (Spencer)

When I was little, I was convinced that I was going to grow up to be an author. I specifically remember a story that you helped me work on called something like “The Adventures of Morca and Phin” (my character names needed some work, even allowing for the sea creature theme). Even though there were a lot of kids that needed your attention, you helped me fill in several pages of a composition book with a few chapters. I don’t remember anything about the story, but I remember that it made me feel special that you worked on it with me.



Mem 46 (Maddie)

Whenever you wrote my sick notes growing up, in true Dad fashion, you couldn’t just write, “Please excuse Maddie from school on October 10, 2007. She was sick.” No, you wrote haikus or limericks to explain my absence and/or wrote the date as “the twelfth day of the tenth month in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven.” As a pre-teen and teenager, I was mortified by this and would always beg you to just write a “normal” note, which you (usually) agreed to do, even though it showed my lack of sense of humor about the whole thing. In retrospect, they were hilarious, creative, and top notch parenting, and I wish I would have just gone with them (I’m sure the office staff would have appreciated the reprieve from boring notes). So this is my apology a decade and a half later for not appreciating your poetic absence excuse notes as I should have.

Chapter 15

Home and Neighborhood Mems

Mem #47 (Mitchell)

Here's a bit of a stream of consciousness. Exploring the woods behind the house with you was always a source of good times. I remember one of our first explorations out past the creek, where we found a headstone in the middle of the forest. On a winter excursion with the Jacobs, Bella, and one-year-old Posh, I remember Bella sprinting across the partially frozen creek and snow piles, while Posh refused to get into the cold water. On that same trip, one of the dogs knocked Matt's trekking poles out of his hand into the water. As it flowed down the stream, I remember thinking how mad Matt was gonna be for the rest of the trip, so I jumped into the creek to grab the pole before it got away. And in writing this, I remember the December 2021 disc golf at South Fork Park. To get some errant discs, I used my stream-science-hardened feet to grab them from the creek. Then instead of playing another round, I investigated the aquatic insects that were in the creek. The best habitat was at Middle Creek Park though, where we hiked up a couple muddy hills before I hopped into the creek and found some pretty big dobsonfly larvae.

Mem #48 (Élo)

I liked when we played basketball one day when I was having a sleepover with you and Gigi during my kindergarten spring break. It was fun because we did it together. It was fair that Gigi and I were on the same team, because you are taller than both of us.



Mem #49 (Mitchell)

Halloween bonfires with the Jacobs and Matt Jacobs complaining about Obama in every blessing he gave the food when we ate together.

Chapter 16

Goofing Around Mems

Mem #50 (Mitchell)

“Wagon Wheel” bluegrass yodeling on Saturday mornings.

Mem #51 (Simon)

During OG weekend breakfasts, you would always invite anyone to the basement to do the grinder dance. Not gonna lie, I have no idea what part of the food prep involves that basement grinder, but I thought the grinder dance was always funny and silly. I don’t even think Kati could perfect the grinder dance—it takes at least 30 years to master.

Mem #52 (Connor)

One day after spending a Saturday at Five Seasons, we spent 30 or so minutes trying to hit the sign near the entrance. I wasn’t great at jumping, so it took me several attempts while everyone else there got it quicker. I think you found a way to weave that into a church talk later too. I can’t remember anything about that specific Five Seasons trip, but I do remember we all had fun jumping to hit that sign.

Chapter 17

Being There For Us Mems

Mem #53 (Spencer)

I'm sure you don't want to hear yet again about the time I got lost in Germany, but there's a part of this story that I don't know that I share enough when it comes up. I have only hazy memories of this episode, but one part I swear I remember was your turning a corner into the room where I was in the police station. Suddenly, I was found, and everything was better again. That was a great feeling and instilled in me at a young age that you would always be there for me.

Mem #54 (Corynn)

During Christmas 2022, I lost my wallet on the plane ride to Cincinnati. I tore apart the house, Janice's car, and all my clothes and still couldn't find it. At this point, I was also very stressed after dealing with all the fallout of the "once in a lifetime" freeze in Texas (Dot coverage fell through, external water line broke, I thought I had a frozen guinea pig in the house after the neighborhood lost heating). You took me to the airport, helped me look in the lost and found, and talked to TSA about flying without an ID. I was on the verge of tears pretty much that entire excursion and really appreciated you being there to help me figure things out. It was a very top-tier dad moment.

Mem #55 (Kathryn)

I know that you probably don't love getting up early—especially when it's probably technically still the middle of the night—but I appreciate all the times that has come in handy for us (like early rides to the airport, sorry!!). I think I most appreciate all the times that you were there earrrrly in the morning to help out with Élo when she was little. Sometimes you just came down the stairs in the dark when you figured we needed help. But one time I remember coming downstairs and you were napping (or wished you were sleeping!) on the couch, and I was so grateful that even though you were tired, you would sit and hold Élo while I was doing something in the kitchen. The early days of kids always blend together, right? I don't remember the exact time or what I was getting in the kitchen (breakfast? a bottle?), but I'll never forget that for you, it's never been too early in the morning for Élo time.



Mem #56 (Maddie)

One year we did family photos in December, and it was freezing. By the end of it, we were all tired and cold—especially Élo, since she was only a toddler at the time. Toward the end of the photo session, we were warming up in our coats for a bit before we did the last few photos, and you put Élo up on your shoulders to make her laugh. Preston then put Corynn on his shoulders, and you all played around, and everybody was suddenly a little bit less grumpy about the cold. My favorite photo from that day wasn't any of the posed ones we took, but one of you with Élo on your shoulders, a huge grin on her face as you squared off with Preston and Corynn, the rest of us in the background laughing (except for Simon, who looks disgruntled, but I'm willing to bet he was having a great time despite his scowl).



Chapter 18

Caring About Us Mems

Mem #57 (Preston)

I've always appreciated how eager you are to learn about my job, hobbies, or whatever I have going on in my life. I've never been someone who likes the spotlight or enjoys boasting about my accomplishments, but I would be lying if I said I didn't appreciate your attention when you ask all sorts of questions about me and my life. And instead of my usual brushing off of my skills and accomplishments, you always make me feel special from your genuine interest in my life.

Mem #58 (Mitchell)

During my soccer career at Cooper, it was most often you who would take me home from the games. Although I don't remember any specific nights, I remember having conversations with you about whatever weighed on my mind. Even though I haven't expressed it well as the years have gone by, I still appreciate and cherish that I have a father who will listen to me intently and offer support when I need it.

Mem #59 (Simon)

You have always been a great gift giver. Some of the gifts you have given me I still have, use, and cherish. Even though it's not sharp anymore, I still bring the pocket knife you gave me when I was 12 on every camping trip, I have used the backpacking backpack you gave me on 10+ backpacking trips, and the Lamy pen you gave me when I graduated high school is still ranked #1 in my collection.



Mem #60 (Spencer)

In 2002, you got roped into being the chauffeur for me and some friends when we decided to go up to Indianapolis for a Star Wars convention. It was a day full of driving, lots of people in Jedi costumes, and some dubious ribs from a local food court. I was very excited about the convention but also very nervous about how you would feel about spending your day surrounded by so much geekery. Was I too much of a nerd for my dad? I don't know what your end of day evaluation of the experience was, but I do specifically remember hearing you crack up laughing while watching Star Wars fan films together and feeling relieved that you were having some fun, too. Maybe I shouldn't have been surprised—you've enjoyed Star Wars movies for longer than I have—but this memory stuck with me enough that I used to tell the story every semester in FREN 102 when teaching how to narrate past events.

Chapter 19

Bonus, Prime-Numbered Mem

Mem #61 (Everyone)

We all have memories of your fondness for prime numbers: Checking race bibs, making funeral arrangements, circling them in your hymn book, and just pointing them out when you see them. We know this is your 60th birthday, but this list would be better if we added one more memory to make the total number of stories (and chapters) prime. Thanks for being a great father, father-in-law, and papa! We are all grateful for all the time you've put in for each of us. The memories we've had with you will stick with us forever! We love you!

