

strong and still in good shape today.
I see that my great-grandmother, grandmother, and my mother grew up without many luxuries. They are all strong, self-sufficient women. I want to grow up to be just like them. You learned from my great-grandmother especially, that the less you have, the more you grow. You do not need all the material possessions to be happy. Your happiness comes from within and how you choose to live your daily life. My great-grandmother has shared so many family stories

important, but rather what you do with what you have that really counts.
A great example of how less is more was when my great-grandmother had to walk to and from her job because she could not afford an automobile. The daily walk was about six miles each way. I could never imagine walking to school every day! This is why I think she is so

from her is that "less is more".
I learned how my great-grandmother had to quit school at age twelve because her mom passed away during child birth. Her dad needed her to help take care of her six brothers. She sacrificed her education to raise her family. She grew up with very little, but was very content with what she had. Each time I hear her stories, I realize it is not what you have that is

My great-grandmother Sophie is a true inspiration to me. She is a ninety year old sweetheart who has sacrificed in order to provide for her family since she was twelve years old. She has taught me many valuable life lessons through her unselfish living, and also by the upbringing of my grandmother and my mother. One of the most valuable lessons I have learned

What I Most Learned From My Great-Grandmother

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with me about how much fun our family has had just spending time together. We are a very close family with many happy memories. Some of our best times have been just being together and repeating family stories.

My great-grandmother is the center of our family. It is because of her strength and her determination that I am proud and fortunate to call her my great-grandmother. I feel that my great-grandmother taught me a very valuable lesson that I will practice, for the rest of my life. Although it is not always easy to follow, I do believe the less you have the better person you turn out to be. I love her so much, and I hope I will make her as proud of me as I am of her!!!

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A Brave Journey

I have learned many lessons from my mother Tiziana, but there is one lesson that I think is one of the most important ones she has taught me so far.

My mom's life was not exactly easy. She was born in Mammola, Italy and lived there until she was almost three years old. When she was two, my grandmother, Mimi, left her and her two sisters with my great-grandmother, Nonna, so she could join my grandfather, Nonno, in the United States. This was a big sacrifice for my Mimi but she had to do what was best for her family.

When my mother was three, she left Italy to join her mother and father in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. My mother had never been away from home or on a big airplane. It was all new and different. She had a lot to learn.

Before she started school, she would play with her neighbors across the street. She would never talk, but she would listen. But when she would go home, she would speak Italian to her parents and Nonna since they did not know much English.

Learning to speak and write English was hard for my mother. Children made fun of her because they could not understand her and never saw such an unusual name. Because of this, it was hard for her to make friends at first, but she always stayed friends with her neighbors who continued to teach her English without her even knowing it.

When she started school, she learned how to write like all the other kids, but it was still a little hard for her to read. In second grade, my mother remembers her teacher telling her she improved enough to be in the first reading group. That was a very proud moment for my mother and after that she was always an A student.

My mom graduated from high school third in her class while working almost forty hours a week to help pay for school and whatever else was needed at home. She was the first person in her family to go to college and graduated from Penn State University in Food Science. Her and my father now own their own business and she is able to be home for me and my sister whenever we need her.

Elizabeth #21

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I thought my mother was very brave through her journey and I love her very much. When things get hard for me school, I think about my mom and everything she went through. She expects me and my sister to do well in school and always tells us not to give up—if we work hard enough for something, we will achieve it. My mom has taught me that it doesn't matter where you come from. It's how hard you work that gets you to where you want to be. She is a good example of how hard work and not giving up really does pay off.

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A Brave Journey

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play with me. He almost always thinks my ideas are great and he is starting to like some of the anyone else around. These days when I want to go out and play in the snow, he is there ready to them. I didn't have to shut my bedroom door so that nobody else would get in -- there wasn't like before he was born. I didn't have to worry about my Legos, there was nobody else to bother Sometimes it's hard to believe that he is feeling that way, then I remember what it was he wants to be like me and my friends and, most importantly, that he looks up to me.

he is now. They tell me that the reason he is doing these things is because he wants my attention, their siblings. For example, they tell me to try and remember what it was like to be as young as he can be, they give me some pretty good advice because they too have had the same issues with her family. When I talk to my Dad, or my Nana or my Grandfather about John and what a pain is the oldest in his family, my grandfather is the oldest in his family and my Nana is the oldest in There are several other members of my family who are also the oldest children. My father

sometimes it's just really hard. learn how to share, respect my privacy, wait until it's his turn to talk, and control his temper but of rage waiting to go off! I know I am supposed to set a good example for him, to help him to be mean to me, and, to top it all off, when he gets mad or upset he becomes a ticking time bomb room and play with my Lego creations. He never waits his turn to talk, is extremely selfish, can little brother named John who is 3 and he drives me crazy. He is always trying to get into my Sometimes, it's hard to be the oldest child in the family. Take me for example. I have a

The Oldest Child

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shows and toys that I like and it's nice to have someone to share them with. On Friday nights after bath, we pop popcorn and watch Cartoon Network in our pajamas on the couch together. I really like that.

My uncles still look up to my Dad and call him for advice sometimes. At the holidays, my Nana and Grandpa visit with some of my great aunts and uncles and they seem really close, even though they don't live in the same house anymore.

I guess someday my brother and I will not fight so much. Maybe he will call me for advice on something. My Dad, Nana and Grandpa are right -- sometimes it's hard to be the oldest but it's fun to share things with him and I'm glad I can be the one to teach him things as he grows up.