

Help Me Write About the Person Who Died

You don't need to write their life story. These prompts are simply here to help you remember the things that made them *them*. You don't have to answer every prompt. I hope they help you work out what you would like mentioned.

The Basics

- ☐ Full name and nicknames
- ☐ Where they were from
- ☐ Parents, brothers and sisters
- ☐ Partner, husband or wife
- ☐ Children and grandchildren
- ☐ Work and career
- ☐ Important places they lived
- ☐ Important periods of their life

What Were They Actually Like?

- ☐ Three words I'd use to describe them
- ☐ Three words their friends would use
- ☐ What made them laugh?
- ☐ What made them angry?
- ☐ What were they brilliant at?
- ☐ What were they absolutely useless at?
- ☐ What did they always say?
- ☐ What did they always do?
- ☐ What little habits did they have?
- ☐ What would everybody immediately recognise as being so them?

The Ordinary Stuff

Sometimes the ordinary details tell you far more about somebody than a list of achievements.

- ☐ What did a normal Saturday look like? (*With Darren it was watching Only Fools and Horses.*)
- ☐ What did they watch on TV?
- ☐ What did they eat or drink?
- ☐ What did they cook?
- ☐ Where did they sit?
- ☐ What did they do around the house?
- ☐ What did they complain about?
- ☐ What could you always rely on them to do?
- ☐ What seemingly insignificant thing do you already miss?

Their People

- ☐ Who were their oldest friends?
- ☐ Who were they closest to?
- ☐ Who did they work with?
- ☐ Who knew a different side of them?
- ☐ Who might have a story I've forgotten?

Try asking someone: **"What do you think of when you think of them?"**

Stories

- ☐ The story everybody always tells
- ☐ Something hilarious they did
- ☐ Something ridiculous they did
- ☐ A holiday story
- ☐ A work story
- ☐ A family story
- ☐ Something from when they were young
- ☐ Something nobody else might know
- ☐ A moment that sums them up perfectly
- ☐ Something they would probably be horrified we're telling everyone

Us

- ☐ How did we meet?
- ☐ What did I first think of them?
- ☐ What did they first think of me?
- ☐ What did we do together?
- ☐ What made us laugh?
- ☐ What did we argue about?
- ☐ What were our routines?
- ☐ What were our places?
- ☐ What did we call each other?
- ☐ What private jokes did we have?
- ☐ What memories immediately come into my head?
- ☐ What did they mean to me?

Music

- ☐ Favourite artist
- ☐ Favourite album
- ☐ Favourite song
- ☐ Music from when they were young
- ☐ Songs you shared
- ☐ Concerts you went to
- ☐ Wedding music
- ☐ Their playlists or Spotify
- ☐ Songs their friends associate with them
- ☐ A song that just sounds like them
- ☐ Entrance music
- ☐ Reflective music
- ☐ Leaving or final song

Ask their friends. Someone else may remember a band, song or story that your overwhelmed brain simply hasn't brought back to you yet.

Photos

- ☐ Favourite photograph
- ☐ A photograph that actually looks like them
- ☐ Family photographs
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Work
- ☐ Holidays
- ☐ Younger years
- ☐ Funny photographs
- ☐ Photographs other people might have that I don't

Things They Loved

- ☐ Music
- ☐ Films
- ☐ TV
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Sport or team
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Places
- ☐ Holidays
- ☐ Hobbies
- ☐ Clothes or style
- ☐ Cars
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Completely random obsessions

Things They Hated

- ☐ Pet hates
- ☐ Things that drove them mad
- ☐ Things they would rant about
- ☐ Things everyone teased them about

Their Life

- ☐ What were they proud of?
- ☐ What did they achieve?
- ☐ What mattered to them?
- ☐ What did they care about?
- ☐ What were they looking forward to?
- ☐ What had they overcome?
- ☐ What did they give other people?
- ☐ How would I like people to remember them?

Forget the Checklist

Close your eyes and think about them.

What's the first thing you see?

What's the first thing you hear them saying?

What's making you smile?

What's the thing about them that nobody writing this for you could possibly know unless you told them?
