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The Hundredth Birthday Assignment
10th Grade

This is the first writing assignment of the year--a chance for me to get to know you better and to find out how you write; a chance for you to have some fun. Read the newspaper account of Marie Rude's one hundredth birthday. Your job is to write the newspaper article which will appear in the paper on your 100th birthday. Obviously, you will need to use your imagination to plan what events and facts to include. Some of the details which might be included: jobs you've had; travel; your married life and family; places you have lived; unusual or interesting things you have done or seen; close calls with danger; chance events which turned out to be important; obstacles or problems you have overcome; things you still would like to do; education you've received; membership in groups or organizations; public recognition; how you celebrated your 100th birthday (who was there, what you did). You do not have to use everything on this list; you can also add other kinds of things.

It would probably be best to organize your paper chronologically: begin with your 100th birthday and then tell the story of your life from childhood on, leading back to the 100th birthday itself. Be sure, however, that the opening section lets the reader know that you are 100 years old. You can include quotations from yourself and other people who know you. Try to describe your life in detail and remember that you will be projecting yourself into the future (so think about how you and the world will change in those years).

When it comes time to grade your paper, I will be thinking of the following things: (1) does it tell the story of your life in some detail; (2) is that story easy to follow, with no big gaps or inconsistencies; (3) are the sentences clear and relatively free of error; and (4) does the paper give the reader a sense of the kind of life you have led:

We have about ten days to write the paper (we will be doing other things along the way). A draft is due on Friday. The final version is due next Wednesday.

'You've got to have faith'

AT 100, WOMAN GETS CHANCE TO SEE FAMILY FARM FROM THE AIR

TOLNA, N.D.—Marie Rude went up for an airplane ride to celebrate her 100th birthday. And her doctor took her out for dinner.

Now she's 100 and holding...tending her plants and enjoying life.

The centenarian said she had always wanted to see her family farm from the air. She had traveled by jet, but had never been up in a single engine plane.

The ride was provided by a neighbor, Don Hoveskeland, who said if she was afraid she didn't acknowledge it. And Rude told a friend, "You have to have faith."

Another highlight of reaching 100 was dinner in Lakota with Dr. Dale Iverson, McVillage, N.D.

When Marie Rude was born a century ago, her native Norway was a poor country ruled by a Swedish king.

Emperors sat on the thrones of Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary and China. The Franco-Prussian War had ended a decade earlier (1870-71) between France and Germany, creating the powerful German Empire. North Dakota was still Dakota Territory.

She was born Marie Haug on May 3, 1883, at Lillehamar, Norway. A large framed photograph of her childhood home, which sort of resembles a Swiss chalet, still has a prominent spot on her living room wall.

Rude's parents were farmers who tilled the stony mountain slopes.

She first heard about America as a young child. Rude read about America in school and there were letters from two older sisters and one brother who had earlier left Norway for North Dakota.

In 1901, she was 18 and she had a chance to travel to America. She took it.

A girlfriend had made plans earlier to come to the United States. She received her fare to Minnesota and did housework for a family until the ticket was paid.

"However, my friend decided not to go at the last minute so I went in her stead," said Rude.

She left her family and boarded a steamship for the long trip to New York. She didn't know a word of English.

Rude took a train to Kensington, Minn., near Alexandria, where she worked for a family of five for three years.

"I did everything—the washing, cooking and cleaning. The three children were going to school, so I learned English from them," she recalled.

Rude was paid \$3 a week. After paying back her ticket, she earned some money for herself before starting on the trip to North Dakota and a new life.

Her destination was Hamar, N.D., where her sisters and brother had settled. She took the train as far as McHenry, N.D., the closest rail point to Hamar, and completed the journey by horses.

She then got a cooking job with a family who lived near the Sheyenne River.

"They were building a bridge across the river and the family was providing the meals for the work men. That is where I met my husband, Herman," she said.

Her husband's parents had come to North Dakota earlier from Sigdal in Norway. Herman Rude was born in Eddy County.

Following their marriage in 1907, the Rudes spent 60 years of married life together on the family farm just north of the Sigdal Lutheran Church, about eight miles southwest of Tolna. The farm had originally been a tree claim.

Eight children were born to the couple—three boys and five girls.

Before the boys were able to do farm work, Marie joined her husband in the fields. She rode the grain binder and helped shock. There were cows to milk, livestock to tend and chickens to feed.

She had a big vegetable garden and there was the canning. Just keeping bread on the table was a major undertaking. The Rudes would purchase 20 hundred pound sacks of flour at one time for baking purposes.

Rude still recalls the tornado which struck the farm in August, 1916. The twister destroyed the neighboring church and several farmsteads. The Rudes lost a portion of their house.

She had just closed the windows on the west side of the house and walked to the east end with her baby when the storm hit. The twister carried away the west end of the house, scattering furniture and papers for miles. The family took refuge in hay stacks until help came. The Rudes rebuilt on the same site.

The Rudes boarded the teachers for years. The school was located north of the farmstead. She also recalls boiling potatoes at her home and then taking them to the Sigdal Church for suppers.

Her husband died in 1968 and at age 85 she returned to Norway, spending the spring and summer in Oslo, Lillehamar and Sigdal.

At age 95, she broke her hip and was told she would never walk again.

"I was at the rehabilitation center, then located in downtown Grand Forks, and I was determined to walk," she said.

Through her exercises, Rude was able to regain the use of her leg and is now able to walk unaided with only a slight limp.

She and a son, Maynard, live on the farm. He retired from farming four years ago and the land is now rented out.

Rude does the cooking, baking, cleaning and washing. She also does some handicraft, including machine knitting. She reads and watches some television.

There was a big 100th birthday party for her in May at Sigdal Lutheran Church.

All of her six surviving children attended. They are Alvide Seeb, Williston, N.D., Mrs. Esther (Frank) Oien, Binford, and her four children from Tolna: Maynard and Norman Rude, Idora Knutson and Dagny Mannie.

A son, Helmer, was killed in the North African campaign during World War II and a daughter, Mrs. Helga (George) Oien, also of Binford, died in a car accident in 1971.

Joe

He survived this long, what about the next hundred?

One hundred years ago on April 30, 1971, Nixon was President of the United States, NASA had just completed their third trip to the moon, and Joe was born.

Joe, looking in good health while at his birthday party at his hometown, just simply raised his glass, proposed a toast, and said, "here's to the next hundred."

The centurion described his life for us just as we asked him to.

His opening statement started as an apology: "Don't get worried if I tend to forget things. I can remember my first memory, but I tend to slip when it comes to names. My mom, David, God bless her heart..." As you have probably noticed, his sense of humor is odd, it surprised me.

Earlier in his life, he was a math major at M.I.T. He worked at a company doing data entry services before voice recognition became practical and affordable. A math scholarship paid the rest of his way.

After college life, he worked for a major firm making algorithms for artificial intelligence use. Some, he says, are still used today. When NASA heard about him, they instantly hired him for a project they were working on. He would create the "brain" for the first interstellar probe to travel to Alpha Centari. He also helped make it travel much more economically by starting before Venus and using solar power to gain speed. It would then

be the fastest thing in manmade history, traveling at twelve percent the speed of light. When NASA wanted to name the "brain" after him, he said, "why me? HAL 2000 sounds better than JOE 29." He finally named it after the algorithm computer in Arthur Clarke's 2001.

He also worked with NASA creating such items as a solar-powered energy generator satellite. This has been one of the best uses for a satellite for major cities such as New York, the San Diego-Los Angeles area, and Chicago. He also worked on a space station to be used for a "pit-stop" for trips to the moon and beyond. NASA let him work until the age of 85. Joe says he can remember when there was a law stating one must retire by age 65.

If he could do one thing before his death, he would like to go to his home the Pacific. He can live there peacefully, enjoying the sun. His skin shows he has already had some fun in the sun, uncommon for people of his own hometown.

Here's to the next hundred.

Karla

Karla's 100th Birthday

On Karla's 100th birthday she celebrated it with all her friends and relatives. This will be a very special Birthday for her because she hasn't seen some of her friends in a long time.

Karla was born November 11th, 1970 in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She lived there until she was seven and then moved to Minnesota.

Karla graduated from East Grand Forks senior high and then went on to college at the University of North Dakota. Well there she studied to be a lawyer. Karla was a very successful lawyer that won most of her cases.

Karla was married at the age of 26 to a doctor. They had 2 kids, 1 girl and 1 boy. On their honeymoon they went to Hawaii and almost got killed by a hurricane. About 15 years later something really tragic happened. Karla's husband was driving home from work and he was hit by a drunk driver. He ended up in a hospital and died shortly afterwards. Karla still had enough money to support her kids and herself.

After a few years Karla's kids moved out and Karla started getting lonely, so she went on a cruise for middle age single people. Well there she met another guy and 2 years later they married. They lived a very happy life together and went on lots of cruises and trips all around the world. At age 85 Karla's husband died and Karla moved in with her daughter. Up until this day Karla was living a very healthy life and hopefully will have many more years to come.

Maria

Woman Celebrates Her 100 Birthday

Today Maria celebrated her hundredth birthday with her family and best-friend.

Last month her husband just turned one hundred and two years old. Even though Maria's hundred years old she still tends her own horses. Maria owns a couple of Arabian horses and has been breeding them for forty years.

Maria was born in Philippines and came here in America the year of 1983. She enjoys travelling and that's one of the reasons why she joined the Air Force after taking classes for two years in Aviation department at UND. She's been to Japan, Spain, Australia and some other parts of the world. Maria has a set of twins and they're both married and has children of their own. The closest call Maria could recall was when her parachute wouldn't open but eventually it did. The worst obstacle that happened to her was her real parents didn't want her and tried to deport her back to Philippines but later a new family adopted her. One of the most important events in her life was when she received an award for heroism during the hijacking of one of the planes she was piloting. She said she would like to do more things even though she's a hundred years old.

Darla

Cycling, Around the World at 100

Today, in Maryland we caught up with 100 year old Darla who is traveling around the world on her Harley, Davidson; Darla is traveling, through forty-nine states on a motorcycle to see the places she never got to see when she was young. Darla left three months ago and has been to very many places she has enjoyed.

Darla lived in East Grand Forks, Minnesota until she was 19; she met and married Tom in 1992. They had two children, Jeff 78, and Maryann 76, both alive and living in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Tom put Darla through college, and she became a school teacher and worked until she was 75.

Darla used to own a moped, when she was fifteen and that's when she decided that sometime in life she would travel around the world on a motorcycle. Tom, her husband bought her and their two children each a Harley Davidson, along with one for himself, so they could go on road trips back to East Grand Forks to check on Uncle Kenny and Grandma Shirley and Grandpa Donnie's house. Uncle Kenny is living with his wife Debbie and their four children. Kenny is 97.

In her leather jacket, sunglasses, helmet, Lee jeans, and cowboy boots, Darla heads for her Montana home to celebrate her birthday with her husband Tom who is 104. She says we can be watching for her again in years to come.

Amy

Amy -- 100

On Amy 100th birthday she flew home to East Grand Forks from Los Angeles, California to see her friends & family (children). Amy grew up in East Grand Forks, MN. She attended River Heights Elementary, Central Jr. High, & Senior High School. Then she moved to California & attended University of California. Amy graduated with a degree in medicine. Amy then got married when she was out of school to Chad. Later on the years Amy had 2 children named Mark, Todd & Cara. At the age of 65 Amy retired from being a doctor & traveled with her husband, they went to many different cities, states, & countries. She went to London, France, Spain, New York, Hawaii & many other places. Then Amy went home with her husband & she cooked, cleaned--took care of her husband. When Amy was 91 her husband died. Amys children moved to Amy's house on a beach in California & lived with her.

Amy then took care of her children & wives, she cooked & cleaned for them too!

When Amy was 94 she fell & broke her leg but she recovered in a hurry. Amy is now 100 years old & celebrating her birthday where she grew up.

Jesse

"An Old Freestyler"

Oslo Minn. Thousands of people came out to see Jesse do "bunnyhops" down the mainstreet on his bike. This day Jesse is 100 years old and he is the world oldest freestyler. He's been doing it for 90 years, his friends, fans, relatives, and family were there for his 100th birthday.

Jesse was born in Minnesota in 1971 in Minneapolis. At age 5 he got his first bike. After a few bruises and trips to the doctor, he got his first dirt bike. Then he started breathing, sleeping, and eating BMX. He was, needless to say, obsessed with BMX. Jesse read thousands of books on bikes, from the library.

His few tricks were "bunnyhoppin" over cars, and he jumped off a roof of a house. The most dangerous trick he did was he jumped off with his bike into the Grand Canyon and he made it. He walked away from his bike which was demolished from the jump. Jesse was annoyed because his bike fell apart after the jump. He said "It's a ripoff."

Jesse actually performed for the Queen of England and the President.

For all his life he remained a bachelor. Jesse was always surrounded by fans, people, especially girls.

Today Jesse is celebrating his 100th birthday with a lifesize BMX bike birthday cake. He tried to get on his cake but his fans made him blow out the candles first.

Heidi

Heidi is 100 and Enjoying Every Minute of It

Heidi celebrated her one hundredth birthday by blasting off for the moon to stay with her 75 year old son, Paul.

The centenarian has always wanted to visit her oldest son at his vacation home, on the moon and on her birthday she had the chance. Heidi's five children all chipped in and bought her the round trip ticket for the trip.

When Heidi was born a century ago on March 30, 1971, in East Grand Forks, Minnesota to Richard and Patricia, the town had a population of 8,500.

Heidi's first job was at River Bend Supper Club and that is where she meet her future husband. When Heidi first met Russ she thought, he's a very nice guy that would make a great friend but what she didn't know is that they would marry within 6 years.

Following their marriage in June of 1992, they were married for 65 years and had 6 children 3 boys and 3 girls, Russ received an inheritance worth \$200,000 that they converted into a restaurant, Hidden Haven, that is still, even till this day, one of the best known restaurants in the Red River Valley.

Heidi graduated from the Univerity of North Dakota in 1993, she received degrees in accounting and restaurant management.

In 1995, Heidi gave birth to her first-daughter, Elizabeth. About a month after Elizabeth was born, Russ and Heidi found out she had muscular dystrophy. For 2 years and 5 months everyone helped Russ and Heidi best they knew how and then she died on May 3, 1997. 3 months later Heidi had her first son, Paul.

Heidi was very happy when the medical board found a cure for Alzheimers disease because at that time Heidi's mother started the first stages of the disease.

When Heidi was 45 and Russ was 55, they were flying to Germany to spend a small amount of time there. On the way there a gas line got damaged and Russ and Heidi thought they were going to crash but due to the advancements of the aviation field the plane went into a glide mode; the back of the seats opened to expose huge air bags. Which helped save the people in the plane when they landed in a farmer's field in France.

In the year 2059 Russ died at the age of 98. That is when Mrs. _____ gave the family restaurant to her family to manage. That is also when she started living in an apartment in downtown EGF near Macy's department store and Hotel St. Gregory. Heidi's hometown which grew from a small community, into a major city of the USA on her 100th birthday, the city's population was 1,980,936.

There was a big dance on her 100th birthday, at the supper club in March of 2071. And all of her surviving children came. Paul of Chicago, Ill; Leanne Carter of St. Paul, MN; Scott of Des Moines, Iw; Andrew of East Grand Forks, MN; and Patricia Anderson also of East Grand Forks.

Terri

100th Birthday Paper

East Grand Forks, MN --Today Terri had the chance to celebrate her 100th birthday on the planet Zenith and she took it! From the time she was in her teens it was her dream to take a trip on a rocket ship. From all the reports we've had so far everything is going great.

Terri was born on Sept. 9, 1968 at Northwestern Hospital in Thief River Falls. At the age of 5 her family moved to East Grand Forks and has been pretty much living there ever since. In 1986 she had a beautiful baby girl. Her first and only child, Kailey June Marie. Kailey just happens to be the one flying the ship in fact. Also on board is Terri's husband. Besides celebrating her 100th birthday they're also celebrating their 80th wedding anniversary. Terri has spent a very fulfilling life just being a housewife and volunteer to many different important causes. There couldn't be any woman prouder.

Jason

Let's Play Football

Today it is Jason 100th birthday. And we will go through his long life of 100 years and he is still living. In 1969 Jason was born at Grand Forks N.D. He lived thier until he was seven, then his family of 3 sisters and one brother moved to East Grand Forks in the country. Thier they built a house and went to Crestwood school on to graduate at senior high school. He got a football scholarship at NDSU where he won the Trophy for best defensive tackles then went on to play profesional football for the chicago

bears where he started at defensive nose guard and had already the leading tackles in the first three games of his first season. He played pro ball for 26 years until he was 39 the best defensive nose guard in the NFL, and went to the great place of football hall of fame and was given the Golden football award. After his football career he joined a football owner team and at his first interview got in a scuff with another announcer he said "just because I bench 380 and squat 590 doesn't mean I can level you very easy" but soon he had announced 100 games and he was the oldest announcer in football history at 72, but then he decided to give it up and go spend his 65,000 a year earnings on a new house and he lived there doing wood statues and lifting weights until he was 96 then he had a stroke and a year later, recovered and decided to live while he still can. We talked to him last week and we asked what would he like to do and he said "go back to the bears defensive nose guard and kick some ass!! And we asked what else he would want to do and he said "get out of this damn wheel chair!! Well that's the storey of a hall of famer, who sadly died 3 months after we interviewed him and his dream died with.

Dale

Alive and Kicking at 100 Years Old

Dale celebrated his 100 birthday at a family reunion. He likes to listen to music to pass the time away. Dale also enjoys playing golf. He used to have a job as assistant greens keeper, but that didn't last too long. After that Dale was able to keep a more steady life. He is free to do almost anything he wants. Dale has a wife and two kids, which he says makes his life more worth living for.

Dale has a very good friend that he once saved his life. Well at one time Dale was swimming when all of a sudden he got a terrible cramp in his left leg. The next thing Dale knew his friend had a hold of him, and was headed to the side. All of the above paragraph was taken place in Fargo N.D. From there he and his family moved to East Grand Forks Minn. Soon after moving there Dale started in Fall, computer classes. After a while of these classes he even got a computer. Dale was a member of the Y.M.C.A. where he had taken lessons for his computer. Dale also did a lot of running in his spare time.

After working out at the 'Y' Dale always felt like he was in very good shape. Well Dale is feeling better so I guess he will be up and kicking for a while. Dale's wife says that he is a loving man with good plans for the future. Dale says that he agrees with his wife and that 90% of the remainder of his life will be spent with his family and friends.