

China Memory Book Project
By Bella Liu
Translated Script

Hundreds of thousands of impoverished farmers in rural Central China were infected with HIV in the early 1980's through blood selling. Now many are dying of AIDS and their families, in particular children, are facing tremendous emotional, social, economic and political difficulties. This memory book is dedicated to helping these affected or orphaned children.

Front Inside Cover

“Life is full of hope, reach out and clasp it in your hand, through persistence your life will take off, a little bit of care will bring a great deal of joy.” – Wai Yee, local artist

What do you see in this picture?

When you look at this picture, what do you feel?

1) “Hi my Friend,

I am your Memory Book and I am so happy that I finally found you! From now on, I will always be your companion. I will be someone you can turn to when you go through hard times. But of course first I need to get to know you better. I would also like to get to know your parents and your family. Will you help me? Will you fill me out?

As you fill me out, you will have the chance to do some things you have never done before: you will take on the roles of a journalist and an artist, both at the same time! You will interview your parents, your siblings and people who know them well, and then write and draw in me, Memory Book. Make me beautiful!

This will be a fun challenge for you. **It is very important that you take your time to fill me out slowly and carefully.** I suggest that you fill out one page at a time. However, I know that you will be able to take this challenge, really, and I think you will like it too! When you are finished, you will have obtained 3 secret medals hidden somewhere inside of me...

If you take good care of me and use me as often as you need to, I can also help you through hardships and guide you along the right path in life. So have some courage, my friend, lets start filling me out!”

“I, Memory Book, will belong to (name) starting (date).”

2) **My Story**

I was born on (date) in (province, county, village, quarter).

(Person) gave me my name, which means...

I started walking when I was (age) years old. I started talking when I was (age) years old.

My first word was (word). My favorite game was (game) and I played it with (persons).

When I was little, my interest were...

My personality was...

{Fact Box: My favorite...color, song, activity, food, sight, sound, celebration, season, subject...is.}

{Frame: When I grow up, I want to become a (profession).}

{Frame: If I get married, I want to have (number) children. This is how I want my future husband/wife to be like...}

{Fact Box: "Ask your parent or someone who knows you well to fill this out about you. How well do others know you?" (Name) thinks my favorite...color, song, activity, food, sight, sound, celebration, season, subject...is.}

3) **My Studies**

"Paste or draw your self-portrait here."

"If you are currently in school, can you show me your grades? Your academic progress is very important to you, and to me. I hope as you keep track of your grades, they will improve..."

{Date, subject, grades}

4) **My Mother's Story**

“Paste or draw a picture of mother here.”

“This page is for your mother to fill out. Tell her that this is very important to you. If this is not possible, ask someone who knows your mother well. Remember how I told you in the beginning that you would have to play the role of a journalist while filling me out?

What if there is nobody to help you? You should never say that. Even in the worst case, there is always you! Use your memory and your imagination! Remember how I told you in the beginning that you would have to play the role of an artist while filling me out? As an artist, you have to be creative!”

I was born on (date) in (province, county, village, quarter).

My personality is...

My best trait is...

I went to school (place and date).

This is how I met your father...

{Fact Box: My favorite...color, song, activity, food, sight, sound, celebration, season, subject...is.}

5)

What is mother's favorite memory together with you? Where was it? What did you do?

What are mother's hopes for you? What type of person does she want you to grow up as?

What is her advice for you? What does she not want you to forget?

{Frame: Mother, please below draw an envisioned perfect world. If mother cannot do it, how do you think mother would have drawn it?}

6)

”Dear Mother,

Life is big, the memory book is small. You cannot describe your whole lifetime in these few pages, but at least you can use these three windows to show the most important aspects of your life.”

“Together with you child, choose three important things in your life, draw or write them in these three squares, and then below describe each of them.”

7)

Child, AIDS is a painful subject for both you and me. I would rather tell you about the happy things in life, but I would still like you to know...

Does mother have the disease?

If she does, she first got it (number) years ago.

Mother and you feel...

How are mother and you now?

The help and care mother has received...

8) **My Father's Story** "This page is for your father to fill out. Will you explain for him who I am? Tell him that no one will read me but you. If this is not possible, ask someone who knows your father well. If this is not possible either, little artist, use your memory and imagination!"

I was born on (date) in (province, county, village, quarter).

My personality is...

My best trait is...

I went to school (place and date).

This is how I met your mother...

{Fact Box: My favorite...color, song, activity, food, sight, sound, celebration, season, subject...is.}

9)

What is father's favorite memory together with you? Where was it? What did you do?

What are father's hopes for you? What type of person does he want you to grow up as?

What is his advice for you? What does he not want you to forget?

{Frame: Father, please below draw an envisioned perfect world. If father cannot do it, how do you think father would have drawn it?}

10)

”Dear Father,

Life is big, the memory book is small. You cannot describe your whole lifetime in these few pages, but at least you can use these three windows to show the most important aspects of your life.”

“Together with you child, choose three important things in your life, draw or write them in these three squares, and then below describe each of them.”

11)

Child, AIDS is a painful subject for both you and me. I would rather tell you about the happy things in life, but I would still like you to know...

Does father have the disease?

If he does, he first got it (number) years ago.

Father and you feel...

How are father and you now?

The help and care father has received...

12) **Our Family's Story**

“Friend, it is very important that you carefully document your family history because I do not want you to forget it in the future. Here I will show you how to draw a family tree. This family tree will help you keep track your family's relationships for three generations. Carefully study the directions below...”

[Family tree with family relationships explained, legend]

“After you have finished looking at the directions, your job is to draw a family tree for your own family on the next page. Don't forget to write down their names! You can even add more generations to your family tree, for example your grandparents' parents.”

13)

Family tree

14) **Our Family Tradition** “This page is for your parents and you to write or draw in together. If your parents are not here, you can ask your siblings or other relatives. If they are not here either, use your memory and imagination! I think you will have a lot of fun!”

{Frame: This is how we make...}

{Frame: This is how we celebrate (holiday)...}

{Frame: This is how we take care of the land...}

{Frame: My friend, if you could fly, what place would you fly to?}

15) **The People Who Want To Help Me**

“This page is for your parents to fill out. It will be extremely useful for you, because you can seek these people later if you need help with anything. If your parents are not here, do you have siblings or other relatives you can ask?”

{Eight Squares: (Name), (Address), (Telephone number), (He/she is)}

“If you have completed pages 1-15, this is a medal just for you. Like a true journalist, you have been able to investigate your family, and you have bravely asked your parents and other people for help. Congratulations for earning your first medal! In the next pages, I would like to get to know you even better, so keep on filling me out, because there are still two more medals to earn!”

16) My Problem Box

“Everybody has worries, fears, nightmares, anger, regrets and sadness. If you have any, I give to you a box where you can put all your troubles in. You can write your troubles down in this box and safely store them here so that you can open the box and deal with your troubles only when you want to.”

{My troubles:}

17) My Goals

“This page will help you keep track of your own goals. To help you get started, I have already given you 12 goals. I hope you will make up your own goals too. Some may be more challenging than others, but as long as you persist, I know you can do!”

{Goal, check box, date, how did you reach your goal?}

Being kind to someone

Learning a new skill

Teaching someone else that skill

Making a new friend

Learning how to prevent myself from getting AIDS

Doing something on my own

Doing somebody a favor

Making somebody smile

18)

Improving your studies

Giving somebody a small gift

Showing your memory book to somebody

“If you have completed the 12 goals that I have given you, congratulations! Here is another medal. If someone is ever mean to you, you can tell yourself that that person obviously has not seen these pages and does not know what a skilled person you are!”

19)

“Now can you write down your own goals?”

“If you have created and then completed all of these goals on your own, you are a true champion! Here is your last medal. You are really skilled! From now on, you can continue to write down your goals elsewhere and continue to complete them.”

20)

“My friend, you have almost finished filling me out. Through these twenty pages, I feel that I have gotten to know you and your family extremely well. I think I understand a big part of your life now. I hope you will look at me often for years to come. I also hope that I, Memory Book, will leave you with vibrant memories and sufficient support for your future.

“In this final section, I will let you write letters to some people. Some of them might not be with you today, but these letters that I have given you are special. They require neither stamps nor mailbox. You only have to fill them out and they will read them and think of you. Can you tell them what you are thinking of right now? Can you tell them what you want to do in the future?”

{Frame: Dear Mother and Father...}

21)

{Frame: Dear Sister/Brother...}

{Frame: Dear Grandma/Grandpa...}

22)

{Frame: Dear Teacher...}

{Frame: Dear Memory Book...}

{Frame: Dear World...}