Kid Power
Family Stories
Past and Present

SPRING 2009

KidPower is a collaborative project of Shady Brook Elementary School in Kannapolis, N.C. and the Literacy for Democracy Program of the Center for Adolescent Literacies at UNC Charlotte.
KidPower & Literacy for Democracy

KidPower is a service learning program developed in conjunction with the Literacy for Democracy (LFD) program at UNC Charlotte. Groups of preservice teachers met during the Spring 2009 at Shady Brook Elementary School in Kannapolis, N.C. and worked with students twice a week around the theme Kannapolis Family Stories Past and Present. Shady Brook students interviewed family members and others about the community and family events which are recorded in this collection.

Literacy for Democracy (LFD) is a program of the Center for Adolescent Literacies at UNC Charlotte in Charlotte, N.C. that works in economically disadvantaged and transitional communities to improve children's and adolescents' literacy and academic achievement through service learning engagement with university teacher education students.

University teacher education students earn credit for working with grades 3-12 students on service learning projects identified by community stakeholders. As these groups of students collaborate, the teacher education students support younger students' reading and writing with explicit tutoring and literacy strategies. Project outcomes are shared with the community on the LFD website.

Literacy for Democracy seeks to:

1. Empower children and adolescents in grades 3-12 to engage in service to affect positive change in their communities, nation and world.
2. Improve children's and adolescents' reading and writing and academic achievement through service learning.
3. Improve university teacher education candidates' self-efficacy and well being through sustained service learning and civic engagement with grades 3-12 students.
4. Provide university teacher education candidates with concrete experiences working with diverse children and adolescents and thus help future teachers to learn how to more effectively teach diverse students.

http://education.uncc.edu/calatuncc/
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Every Christmas break, my mom, my dad, my sister, and I go up north. We go to Virginia, West Virginia, and Ohio during our visit. All of my dad’s family lives up there and ¾ of my mom’s. So when we go up, we have a lot of visiting to do.

We stay at my great-grandma’s house. It is 2 story with a huge basement. It is a huge house! She gets us presents too! I got a cadoo. It is a awesome board game!

We don’t get to see my family very much because they live so far away (6 hours). I love when I see them. It feels good because it is rare to see them. And they love it when they see me. I love my family!

By:

Jessi D.
The Cherry Tree

My mom, aunt Kim, aunt Caral, uncle Rob, great grandpa, great grandma, and grandma had a huge cherry tree in front of their house. The cherrys ripened in the summer and great grandpa covered the whole tree with cheese cloth. This helps keep the birds out of the tree.

Papa and his grandchildren would climb the branches and hang a bucket of a limb. We would pick the cherrys and put them in the bucket. Sometimes we would eat the cherrys or throw the rotten ones at each other.

Once our buckets were full, we would lower them down to Nana, grandma and grandpa. Then we would do it all over again until all the cherrys were gone.

By:

Lauryn
The Beach
Every year I go to the beach. I always have fun and I always go with my family. I go to
the beach while my dad goes to us a hotelroom for when we come back from the beach.
Then we eat food and in the afternoon we go to the pool. The next day we go to the beach
in the morning. We stay there for one more day and then we leave. It’s a long way back
home.

By:
Leslie
My Nana and Poppy

I am writing about my nana and poppy. I am because they are nice and I have so much to tell about them. One thing I want to tell is there age. My poppy is 53 years old and my nana is 59 years old. They both live in South port, in other words they live at the beach. I see them at least 2 or 1 times each summer. Most of the time I get to sleep over at there house. It is so fun, we go shopping at the beach stores. One time we waited for poppy to come home and when he did we poped up and said surprise. Now he was surprised he did not know we were coming. I miss them alot. I enjoy when I see them.

By:
Zoe M.
Biography of Grandma

This is the Biography of my grandma her name is Teresa Lambert A.K.A Peanut. I guess that you want to know why they call her peanut? So this is the story.

Long, long ago! In 1941 a baby girl was born in North Carolina. So everytime that her dada would go to work, they would say where is little peanut at because she was so small. But now she is 67 and teaches Line dancing to the elder. Her date of birth was 3/30/1941. What she does every 4\textsuperscript{th} thursday of April she does a tornemet of dance. She always wins the first place trophy and gold metal. She is perfécinal dancer. At the Cabboras senior center.

By:

Jacob P.
My Dad
My favorite family member is… My dad. My dad's been there from the start. He cares for me and he plays with me, either its softball or tickling me. When we are playing softball and I get hurt he say are you ok if I say no he says suck it up but I still love him. If my dad get mad at me I deserve it.

By:

Jordan S.
My mom told me about a funny story. This story was about a time when she was little. It was about when she was with her dad and he was on

By:

Hailey B.
My Family Story
My moms two brothers closed the bathroom door and they flushed the toilet and started screaming! They were playing a joke on their younger brother. Their younger brother started crying when their dad came and he said they were in big trouble.
By Brooklyn Helms
My family story

My Mom

My mom was born in Mexico, 1978. She has 2 brothers and 2 sisters but she only grew up in Mexico. One special memory from her childhood was that when she was about 13 year old it was the first time that she put makeup on her mouth. Something that changed since she was a kid was that on her school people were doing new classes. Some jobs that she had to do was plant seeds with her father and had to do food with her mom. One of her favorites story was when she was a girl she use to sale candy with her parents.

By Fanny Perez
My grandpa’s live

My great-grandfather used to shoot pigeons and pigs. When he shot the pigeons the police would get real mad and give him a warning. Back then you would get a gun at a young age. He got his gun when he was only eleven. It was happening in Kannapolis in 1949. Once the police got so mad they had to send him to jail. His parents had to pay a lot to get him out. It was hard because they didn’t have a lot of money. He was about 9 when this happened. 1 year later his dad who worked on the farm. He would shoot a pig and hang them up. Before he hung them up he would take parts such as the tail, and other parts. My grandpa got a girlfriend this year. One time my grandpa’s dad shot a pig and told my grandpa maybe he girlfriend would like to see it. So the next day my grandpa took the pigs tail in a paper bag to his girlfriend. His girlfriend was not pleased. She got mad and went away. But she got over it because one day they got married and became my grandparents.

By Justin Rogers
My family story
Hi my name is Emilee Leopard. I am in 3rd grade. My Grandmaws name is Bobbie Leopard. My Grandmas brothers name is Robert Carpenter.

When my grandmaw was little when they went to have a picnic Robert got in the floorboard and when they stopped and got out he was embarrassed to be seen. It must have been hard for my Grandmaw she had three brothers and five sisters.
By Emilee Leopard
My Family Story

When my mom turned 15 instead of having a quinceanera. Like a 15 birthday part. My mom had relatives that she hadn’t seen for a long time come and visit us. My grandfather paid for their airplane tickets so that was my mom’s for her 15th birthday. She said she always those 2 weeks they were here for vacation. She also got a special bracelet, necklace and a ring that she will give to me one day.

By Jessica Herrera
The History of my Grandpa
Hello this is Robinson Price. My grandpa fought in the war between the states and my grandpa survived in the war. My grandpa walked home bare footed back then they didn’t have airplanes. And my grandpa went to the movies and he had rash books and he lost them and the lady said that someone lost they’re rash books. He ran down there.
By Robinson Price
About my Grandpa
By: Megan Williams

He was born in Union County in Wingate, North Carolina on September 27, 1937. He grew up in Kannapolis, North Carolina had he had 1 brother who is five years younger than my Grandpa.

During the World War II they had air raids. They had to turn off their lights and keep the windows covered, in case of an air attack. When my Grandpa was in school they didn’t have cafeterias. When they first started kids were spanked by the teachers by wooden paddles. The jobs that my Grandpa worked were washing cars, working in retail stores, mowing grass, and driving bread trucks at sixteen years old. As an adult he worked in aerospace. He worked hard, HE’ GREAT!!
My Paw-Paw
By: Caroline David

My paw-paw’s family came from England then they landed north and went south to Georgia. He grew up in Danielsville and was born on January 8th, 1927 and had 6 brothers and 3 sisters. When his parents died he got a butter churn from his mom and a sledge hammer from his dad. Now I am going to tell you a story about my paw-paw when he was young.

Whenever they went outside the kids would make a slide hill. This is called a slide but you had to make it. His brothers and sisters lived it. He says he remembers his mom calling him for dinner while they were playing.

When my paw-paw told me this he got tears in his eyes and said he would love to go back to those days when he played on the slide hill and could see his mom.
My dad was sledding behind the intermediate school and his mom called him. When he got to the top he said, “One more time!” She said, “O.K.!” and maybe that one was one too many. He cut his leg and needed 55 stitches. I bet that hurt! When he got to his house it started to bleed like crazy. It was the ikyest thing that he had ever seen and they went to the hospital to get the stitches.
Bad Nose
By: Adam Love

I’m going to tell you about the time my grandpa’s nose almost came off. This story involves my papa.

One day, 32 years ago, my grandpa was cutting trees down in his farm. He was cutting a rather large tree, and when he cut that tree, another small tree snapped up and hit him in the nose. The tree that he was cutting fell on the tree that hit him in the nose.

He went to the doctor and had to get 55 stitches. So it goes to show you, trees are a danger.
The Watermelon Hill

By: Allie Baker

About fifty years ago, my grandpa, his cousin Larry, and his three brothers made this wooden cart to pull behind the tractor and went up a hill to the watermelon patch. My grandpa was about fifteen when this happened. It was a long trip up to the top of that hill. My grandpa didn’t want to walk all the way back down with a heavy cart, so he thought of a different and exciting way back down. He told his cousin and brothers what the idea was and they were all going to do it.

They all got on the cart carefully (so they wouldn’t crush the watermelons) and the cart started to go down the hill. They were going really fast and when they were almost there, they hit a tree and the cart turned over! Watermelons and boys were flying everywhere; all because my grandpa wanted to go the fast way instead of the long, safe way. All the watermelons were broke, but the boys were OK. What a story to tell!
My Great-great Grandpa Hill

By: Katie Beth Hill

My family story was exciting and cool. People in my story are very important to me. Here is my story:

My great-great grandpa Hill sold sewing machines. My great-great grandpa Hill was so active in church, that he started 3 churches. My great-great grandpa was really friendly and loved children so much that he started and orphanage! This all happened in Rutherford County in the early 1900’s.

I like telling this story because of the religious interest that my family has. I hope you liked my family story!
Do you know what a Night lign’t is?
   Well if you don’t listen to my story my aunt reesa gave me a night light.

It had lot’s and lot’s of christma’s light’s and she put a green riddon around it,
   Gray cloth on top. Than she heard me crying, so she came to get me, then she took the gray cloth off of the night light and she put some carving like swirly noodles made of wood. Than she put the carvings in my light light than she put the gray back on my night-light, than i fell back asleep than she put me back in my bed than she went to sleep. the end
The traditional teddy bear

This teddy bear is really traditional. It has been around for generations my mom got it from my greatest gratist GREATEIST “old” grandmother. I never got to see her. The teddy bears anme is Jewl Simcox Votra. I sleep with her everynight.

I just made up her name right in Kidpower.

The tradition teddy bear is traditional because it has been going around for years. I am going to pass it on to my child. And she is going to pass it on to her child. If it is a girl.

I never let it fall of the bed or get out from under the blankete because I do not want it to get dirty. Sometimes I use it as a suvanear.

The End
Kierra Jackson

↓

Interviewing my dad!”

My dad’s great grand Parents are from Louisana and mississippi. My dad was born in East liver Pool, ohio June 23, 1970. My dad has on sister named Yolanda and sister what me and mi siister all her. my dad grew up in weelsville ohio. My dad likes playing with friends and he still talks to them today his favorite family store is ... One day my dad and his mom and his sister was watching am movie “Blob” and his mom had a glass of Pepsi with fresh ice in it. The glass made a noise when the ice moved from the bottom too the top of the glass. My dad his sister and his mom all ran downstairs to the door befor they realized it was the glass of pepsi with ice. My dad’s mom always told them to run first and think later.
My Blanket
By: MaKenzie

My blanket is green and it has little ******** (snowflakes) on it. It’s a souvenir from my grandpa. I sleep with it every night but it falls off my bed. My grandpa owned it but he died so my grandma gave it to me. He liked popcycles and I sat with him in the recliner. We would eat popcycles and watch T.V. Sometimes we would lay in the bed together and fall asleep. We like the banana popcycles.
My MamMa
By: Abby

My great grandma is 86 years old. When she was little she lived in the country of Taylorville. And she had 5 brothers and 7 sisters. Her father died when she was 4 years old and he mother worked very hard to raise the children.

Every morning she would make breakfast for all her children before they went to school or work. At her school it was only a 2 room school house. Each class had 1 teacher. They had no electricity and their bathroom was outside. Water was kept in buckets and when they were thirsty they used a dipper to get it out. At her home, she used an oil lamp at night to study her lessons.
Rebecca Alice Russell Woods, my grandma
By: Brae

She grew up in NC. Her moms name was Earlene and her dads name was Rob. Her favorite song was “great balls of fire.” Her favorite toy was Barbies. Her favorite plant is pink Gerber Daisys. Her favorite Book is “Tales of the forth grade nothing”, and her favorite food is steak. Her favorite color is red. Her favorite drink is tea. Her favorite holiday is Christmas.

One day I went to Georgia with my grandma. I went to American Girl store and she bought me a American girl and some closes and a hair dew. She even got me food from the American girl Bufft when I got back I played played played I had a blast that day!!!
My grandma is probably 100 years old. It looks like a pair of binoculars with a cross attached to it. My stereoscope is used like a television and transportation to see all the places in the world. I feel this is important because this has been in our family for 3 generations.

Jack F.
Third Grade
I went on a big ship called a cruise ship. It was a fun ship. I ate a hamburger and onion rings at a big restaurant. The ship had a puppet show. We got off at an island called St. Thomas and walked around. We found a carnival; we ate hotdogs and played games too. We got back on the ship. There was a pool at the top of the ship. My sister swam in the pool, but I got in the jacuzzi but it was so hot, I got in then back out. My favorite part of the cruise was the towels folded into animal shapes. The cruise was so fun that I was sad when it ended.

Justin C.
Third Grade
Three summers ago I went on a cruise with my church. It took us about four days to get there. After we got there we took our luggage off and boarded the ship. We checked in and got our key to our room. We put our luggage up and did some things. Then we went to the deck and had some punch. My cousin and I went to the pool and played. After a while my friend, my cousin and I went to a camp called Camp Carnival. We danced to the cha-cha slide and my friend was cha-cha-ing funny. I met this girl and we became friends. After we went to eat we went to our room. The next morning we went to my grandma’s room and we also gathered the family and we showed our I.D’s to the man and then we got off the ship. My mother, my grandmother, my two cousins and I got on a train and rode through the town. We came to a stop and we went to this little shop, it sold shirts and wraps. I got a wrap that had dolphins on it and I also got a Dora shirt. When we got back on the boat we changed into our bathing suits and went to the Jacuzzi and played then we ate, went to Camp Carnival then went to bed. The next day we woke up it was our last day on the boat. So we celebrated then we took the bus back to North America.

Kyla R.
Third Grade
Last year in July in the summer at my family’s house I had my eighth birthday and we ate vanilla cake, we played tag and we hit the piñata and all my family had a great day. I got a bike for my present that’s a tradition for me.

Natali G.
Third Grade
One summer ago I went to Illinois and went to see my family with my mom, grandma and great-grandma. My grandpa did not go with us because it is not his family. We went to go see my great-grandma’s aunt and uncle.

Ryne D.
Third Grade
I had an Easter dinner. My aunt and my uncle came and my cousins came and my mom, my baby brother and dawn. We had the biggest dinner ever and it was great I had homemade mash potatoes, homemade green beans and homemade dressing. For dessert we had strawberry shortcake, strawberry’s with cream cheese and I had persimmon pudding. It was delicious! After we got done eating we went outside and me and my grandpa played baseball. Me and my cousin played beach ball. It was great!

Lea H.
Fourth Grade
I went to visit my grandparents. I went with my sister. I flew there and I went to the V.I.P. place and got free food. I was in Mexico for one month. I found out that they had a farm with cows, horses, and goats. I also found out there was a weird fruit it was green and looked like an apple. They live a hard life because they are running out of money. They are also running out of food. I also had fun because I went to the beach with my grandparents and sister. You can see right through the water and see rays and fish. I had to walk everywhere I went, that’s different from here.

Ashley T.
Third Grade