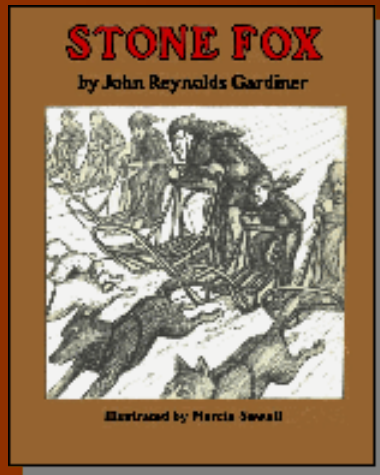


# HOW TO WRITE A STORY THAT'S NOT BORING

- Who is John Gardiner?
- Author of *Stone Fox*, *Top Secret*, and *General Butterfingers*



## II. Can't We All Write a Good Story? *Why Should We Write One?*

- Jesus used stories to illustrate important moral lessons.
- "Literature is the handmaiden of history"

# Idea!

## III. Nine Points to use to test every idea for a story

# A. Main Character

- -One similar to the writer
- -One who is a good person
- -1<sup>st</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> person?
- - He or she has to want something.

## B. Why Can't the Main Character Have What He Wants?

- Story will have no conflict.
- Problems build interest.

# C. What Happens if the Main Character Doesn't Get What He Wants?

- Adventure!
- Suspense!

# D. How Does My Main Character Struggle to Get What He Wants?

- -He thinks of different possible solutions, all of which fail.
- no more than 3 or the reader loses interest

## E. What Additional Hardships Does Your Character Face?

- Examples: Little Willy gets turned down for a loan at the bank; Stone Fox gives him a black eye.
- If the reader is given a chance to catch his breath, he is given a chance to get bored.



# F. When Does It Appear Hopeless?

- Near the end.
- In *Stone Fox*, Searchlight dies near the finish line.

# G. Does Your Main Character Get What He Wants?

- -Not always. What else could happen?

# H. When Is the Distress Alleviated?

- Not until the last paragraph or page.



# I. What Is Unexpected or Surprising About the Ending?

- It is not what you are expecting, so this adds excitement for the reader.

# J. Foreshadowing

Drop little hints throughout the story.

Read *General Butterfingers* to see how many there are.

# IV. Finishing the Story

- The hook
- Polishing grammar and spelling

*WANT*

*STRUGGLE*

*SURPRISE*

# HOW TO WRITE AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

What is an Autobiography?

It is a General Journal.

Why write an Autobiography?

A. Goal setting.

Where you are now and where you are going.

B. Appreciating your life



## II. Title

Do this last.

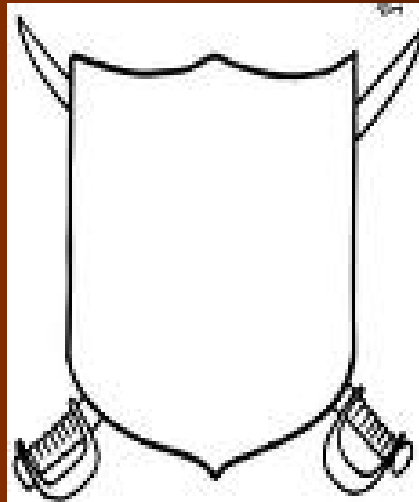
- “It's Great Being a Girl!”
- “I Enjoy Being a Boy!”
- “Curly Top”
- “Little Ricky”

# III. Coat of Arms

Look yours up on the internet, or make an original one.

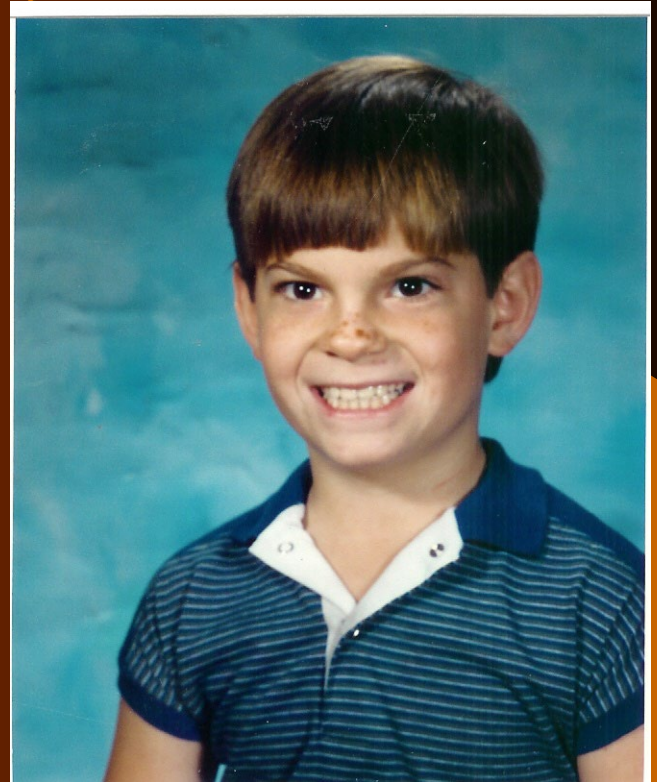


Google  
“blank coat of arms shield”.



## IV. Physical Description

I am a regular 13 year old boy, who is starting to grow tall. At least my mom keeps telling me I'll grow! My hair is reddish-brown, and I have freckles. I am pretty strong, but not really muscular.



## V. Where I've Lived

Born in Michigan, I moved to California when I was five years old. I liked the big old house we had lived in while we were in Michigan. Here in California, our house is much lighter with lots of windows. We have a swimming pool in our back yard, and all the neighbors come over to swim and play ping-pong on our patio during the summer. I've heard that this is the best place to live, but since I have so little experience, I'll just take your word for it.

# Our House

In Michigan



# VI. Pie of Life

(Make it bigger.)



## VII. If I Had a Million Dollars...

First, I would buy my mom and dad a ranch house. It couldn't be in New York, or all the money would be used up! Then we would take a trip to Hawaii to see the volcanoes and surf. I would finally think of others, and decide to give some money to boys town in Nebraska where they help underprivileged kids. I should probably put some of the money that is left in the bank, planning for the future. Wait! I remember my uncle told me to give the first 10% to church, and put the second 10% in the bank. So, I will take his advice.



# A Home for Mom and Dad

Think it is large enough for them?



## VIII. Meet My Family

My mother's name is JoAnn, and she is about 38 years old. She has light brown hair, cut in one of those short haircuts, and she is really pretty, to me. She spends all her time teaching us, and exercising to one of those videos, and cooking lots of good food for us. I really appreciate her.

My dad's name is Jim. He is 42 this year. He is really strong, and he can always lift one of us up if we need him to. He works out of the house, so we get to see him every day. He teaches us science

twice a week, and we like that little book, Backyard Scientist, that we use. He is an elder at church, so we go pretty often to help clean the church on Saturdays.

We have four children in our family, my sister Michele who is 8, my sister Jennifer who is 12, my brother Keith who is 14 and me... I'm 13. Michele is the baby, so we all watch out for her. She mostly studies and plays dolls right now. Jennifer likes to play chess and she just qualified for the state championships in Sacramento, so we'll all go there in October. She is so good that I don't like to play her! Keith wants to go into the Marines. He wants to be a pilot and fly the F-14

jets. He likes heights but I don't!

Me? I am going to be a doctor. I want to help people, and blood does not bother me. I think God would like me to do something to improve things around here, so that is my goal.



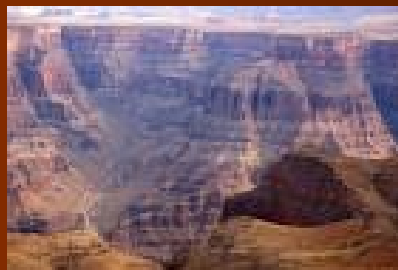
# IX. Great Achievement to Date

It is hard to think of an achievement at my age. Maybe one is the great experience I had when I went to Mexico with my youth group and we helped build a church there. I learned a little Spanish ahead of time, and could at least say, "Buenas Dias!" I really liked getting acquainted with the locals, and feeling that my hard work and sweat would help someone else. Yes, that is what I think God wants from me—to help people.

# X. If I Could Travel Anywhere

My parents traveled to London, and they came home and told us about seeing the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, the Roman ruins at Bath, the great museum near the palace, Paddington Station, and all the British architecture. I think that I'd like to go there or actually anywhere there is history.

# Places to visit



# XI. Who is someone you admire?





## XII. Where do you see yourself in 15 years?

Well, I'll be 28 then, probably just starting my medical practice. I think I will be married to a great girl who is a Christian and who loves me and thinks my jokes are funny. We are going to have a really big family.



# XIII. Imagine yourself as an 80 year old...

After a long career, I can look back upon my life, and know that, although hard times came into my life, they were to help me grow as a Christian. I learned to depend on God totally, and He never failed me. My family is grown now, and they are truthfully the joy of my life. My wife has become my faithful friend and companion in life, just as she was supposed to be. We still help people wherever we can, and find much happiness in our family and ministries.

# XIV. Epitaph



"Well done, thou good and faithful servant".

# XV. Fiction Story

(An Adventure story that is totally made up, starring "me". It may be a spy story or a trip to the moon. Something fairly unrealistic.)



# P.S: The Cover

Last, do the cover. This is because ideas will come from the actual writing of the autobiography which will spark the imagination of the writer, and an imaginative cover will be easier to create.

When finished, give to Mom and Dad to save for you till you grow up!



**I Enjoy Being a Boy!**