

Summertime Reminiscing



Do you have fond memories of summers past?

For many people with memory loss, their distant memories remain clear, although they have difficulty recalling what happened recently.

Talking about past pleasures can boost a person's mood and can help people connect as they get to know each other.

This activity packet includes discussion prompts and song lyrics to use individually or in groups, at home or in a day program or long-term care setting.

Adjust the questions and add your own ideas to make the activity fit best.

The songs included here are easy to find on YouTube and have been recorded by many different artists over the years. Try several versions to see which ones seem most familiar!

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Remember when...

...you went to the drive-in movie theater to see a movie? Is there a movie or movies that you remember seeing there?

...you packed some sandwiches, cookies, and drinks and went on a picnic? Where did you go?

...Momma hung clothes and linens on the line to dry them instead of using a dryer? Do you remember how good the clothes and sheets smelled during summer?

...there were merry-go-rounds and see-saws on the playground? What was your favorite playground equipment?

...you hunted for night crawlers in the grass at night to go fishing the next day? Where did you fish? What did you catch?

...everyone went on Sunday drives in the car after church? Where did you go?

...you lied on the grass at night and gazed at all the stars in the sky?

...everyone swam at the local pond instead of in a chlorinated pool? Where did you swim?

...kids sat in a #2 galvanized wash tub to cool off— the same #2 galvanized wash tub they took a bath in?

...there were summer barn dances? Who did you go with? Who did you dance with?

...you played outdoor games like tag, kick the can, run sheep run, red rover, hopscotch, and hide and seek? What games did you play or create?

...there were ALWAYS family reunions, because family was nearby and that's just what we did back then, visited with each other every weekend. Who did you visit with? Who did you travel to see?

...the 4th of July celebrations included parades, bands, and pie-eating contests? What is your favorite way to celebrate Independence Day?

...you had to hoe and plant the garden, water the plants, pull the weeds, pick the fruits and vegetables, and then can it, freeze it, or dry it? What did you plant? How did you preserve it? What is your favorite food fresh from the garden?

...family and friends sat on the front porch swing and porch steps for hours? Who was sitting with you? Did you ever gather on Grandma's and Grandpa's front porch? Did you cool down with lemonade or another drink?

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Activities

What were your favorite summer activities as a child? As an adult?

Who did you do those activities with?



What was your favorite place to go in the summer?

Did you ever enjoy the ocean beach, go boating, or stay at a summer camp?

Vacations

Did you go on vacations growing up?

Where did you go? Who did you go with? What was the best part??

Did you travel to visit relatives during the summer?

Where did they live? What was the best part about visiting these relatives?

Did you ever go on a big trip or an adventure such as going to a National Park, traveling to a different country, or visiting a museum, zoo, or carnival?

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Where You Lived

Where did you live when you were growing up?

What was the weather like?

How hot was it? What did you do to keep cool?

What did you do on a rainy day?



Who were your neighbors?

Who did you spend your days with? How often were you able to see your friends?

What was there to do during the summer where you lived as a child?

What did you do for fun? Did you ever get bored?

The Natural World

What kinds of pets did you have?

What were their names? What did you do with them?

What did you like to do outdoors?

Did you live near woods? Or fields? Or a park? Or water (like a brook)?

Have you spent time on a farm?

What was it like? What animals or plants were there? What did you do?

Summertime Reminiscing

In the Good Old Summertime

There's a time each year
That we always hold dear
Good old summertime
With the birds and the trees'es
And sweet scented breezes
Good old summertime
When your day's work is over
Then you are in clover
And life is one beautiful rhyme
No trouble annoying
Each one is enjoying
The good old summertime

In the good old summertime
In the good old summertime
Strolling through a shady lane
With your baby mine
You hold her hand and she holds yours
And that's a very good sign
That she's your tootsey-wootsey
In the good, old summertime

Oh, to swim in the pool
You'd play hooky from school
Good old summertime
You'd play "ring-a-rosie"
With Jim, Kate and Josie
Good old summertime
Those days full of pleasure
We now fondly treasure
When we never thought it a crime
To go stealing cherries
With faces brown as berries
In good old summertime

In the good old summertime
In the good old summertime
Strolling through a shady lane
With your baby mine
You hold her hand and she holds yours
And that's a very good sign
That she's your tootsey-wootsey
In the good, old summertime

Songwriters: George Evans / Ren Shields (In the Good Old Summertime lyrics © Music Sales Corporation)

Summertime Reminiscing

Summertime

Summertime, and the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high
Oh, your daddy's rich and your ma is good-lookin'
So hush, little baby, don't you cry

One of these mornings you're gonna rise up singing
And you'll spread your wings and you'll take to the sky
But till that morning, there ain't nothin' can harm you
With daddy and mammy standin' by

One of these mornings you're gonna rise up singing
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Oh, your daddy's rich and your ma is good-lookin'
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Songwriters: Du Bose Heyward / George Gershwin / Ira Gershwin (Summertime lyrics © T-Series)

Summertime Reminiscing

Under the Boardwalk

Oh when the sun beats down and burns the tar up on the roof
And your shoes get so hot you wish your tired feet were fire proof
Under the boardwalk, down by the sea, yeah
On a blanket with my baby is where I'll be

out of the sun
(Under the boardwalk) we'll be havin' some fun
(Under the boardwalk) people walking above
(Under the boardwalk) we'll be falling in love
Under the boardwalk, boardwalk

In the park you hear the happy sound of a carousel
Mm-mm, you can almost taste the hot dogs and french fries they sell
Under the boardwalk, down by the sea
On a blanket with my baby is where I'll be

out of the sun
(Under the boardwalk) we'll be havin' some fun
(Under the boardwalk) people walking above
(Under the boardwalk) we'll be falling in love
Under the boardwalk, boardwalk

Ooh, under the boardwalk, down by the sea, yeah
On a blanket with my baby is where I'll be

out of the sun
(Under the boardwalk) we'll be havin' some fun
(Under the boardwalk) people walking above
(Under the boardwalk) we'll be falling in love
Under the boardwalk, boardwalk

Songwriters: Arthur Resnick / Kenny Young

Under the Boardwalk Lyrics © Round Hill Music Big Loud Songs, BMG Rights Management

Summertime Reminiscing

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Take me out to the ball game.
Take me out with the crowd.
Buy me some peanuts and cracker jack.
I don't care if I never get back.

Let me root, root, root for the home team.
If they don't win it's a shame.
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out.
At the old ball game!

Take me out to the ball game.
Take me out with the crowd.
Buy me some peanuts and cracker jack.
I don't care if I never get back.

Let me root, root, root for the home team.
If they don't win it's a shame.
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out.
At the old ball game!

For people who enjoy baseball, try reading *Casey at the bat* by Ernest L. Thayer:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45398/casey-at-the-bat>

Or search for a video reading, like this one, by Mike Bianchi:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAcl_P7K5yg

