

Age 5 - I became a proud big brother.

Pre-K - My mother took me to meet someone who lived nearby to see if she would be the right fit as my babysitter. While she and my mother spoke on the patio, I was kicking a ball in the backyard and kicked it up onto the second level. I climbed up the retaining wall and stepped on a beehive. I was swarmed with bees, hundreds. This woman, who I had just met, leapt into action. She grabbed me and without hesitation took me inside the house with bees still all over me and drew me a bath with baking soda. I still remember seeing bees flying around in the bathroom. My mom thought I would never want to go to that house again, but as she put me in the car and began pulling out of the driveway, she tells me I said, "when can we come back here?" The woman was my sitter all the way through elementary school and we are now friends.

Kindergarten - I was walking to school with a friend and there was a rolled up newspaper on the street. She picked it up and it had a dozen or so bees on it. She was so frightened she couldn't move. I ran the rest of the way to school to get my teacher to help her. We both grew up with a fear of bees.

1st Grade - I loved school and hated my teacher. She was old and mean. Half way through the year she left for some unknown reason. My classmates and I thought she was fired because she was so mean. Her replacement was a young woman who I developed a crush on. She taught me that my middle finger was just a finger and it meant nothing just like the other fingers. I later learned what it really meant and even later came to understand why she told me it was just a finger. Because it is.

3rd Grade - I love school and my teacher is one that I still remember and think about. She was my teacher for three years. It was sad to leave and go to middle school.

Age 8 - I won first place in the tri-city Hit, Run, and Throw competition in Little League. I still remember my dad getting the call on the phone and running to me and hugging me to tell me the news and how proud he was of me.

4th Grade - my first straight A report card.

I win M.V.P. on my flag-football team.

5th Grade - my first detention. I felt horrible and decided I would never be sent to it again, and I wasn't.

6th Grade - I sang my first solo in the choir and I haven't stopped singing since.

Middle School - I learned how to play basketball by the local college basketball coach. His son was in my class. Our team was the best in the league, all three years. I played with a current NBA player.

Football was a fun sport for me. I played right guard. We had the smallest line in the league, but we were still undefeated.

Was chosen to be a part of the state honor choir in 7th & 8th grade.

8th Grade - My first kiss. It was sloppy, but I got better. A's in math all year. I had a teacher who was able to explain Algebra to me and I got an A. I understood math. I remember feeling very proud.

My grandmother died. My first funeral experience. I got to say I love you to her hours before she passed. She was the best.

9th Grade - I fall in love. I got to run with the football for the first time since flag football. I scored a few touch-downs that year. I loved running with the ball.

Did not make the high school state choir. I expected to.

I was the only freshman asked to join the Varsity Show-choir.

I was selected for the Student Council. We opened a student store and I got to be in charge of ordering new stock.

Age 16 - My first job bagging groceries. I hated it and soon left and worked at a fast food establishment for three years.

I volunteered, with some other friends, for Habitat for Humanity. I need to do some more volunteer work.

I bought my first car with my own money. I paid \$600 for it. It was old, but it was red and I washed it once a week, inside and out, until I totaled it in the snow by slipping and running into a tree. I got a ticket for failure to maintain control of my vehicle. The tree barely had a scratch.

10th Grade - My last year playing league football. I made it to the State Choir the rest of my high school career. Music was my passion now. I won the best male vocalist award at a competition. I accepted it wearing orange sweatpants.

11th Grade - The lead in the musical.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

11147



12th grade - The lead in the musical. I played tennis this year, because I didn't want to leave high school without my Varsity Letter.

Age 19 - I receive a small academic scholarship and a large talent scholarship that allowed me to go to a private university known for its Theatre program. I move away from home. 700 miles away from home. Followed a girl to college. Same girl from 9th grade. Mistake.

I'm cast as lead or supporting lead in 7 out of 8 shows during college.

Age 22 - I receive a BFA in Musical Theatre and move to a new city. I fall in love again.

Age 24 - I get stung by a bee. For some reason, I no longer have my fear of bees.

Age 25 - I am hired as a singer on a cruise ship. I get to travel out of the country for the first time. I love it.

Age 26 - The business of show business is no business for me. I enjoy construction now. I work for a distant family member and begin remodeling property. I can do flooring (wood, tile, vinyl), install and refinish. I can gut a bathroom and put it back together again, better than it was. I was self-taught. I learned from my mistakes and am proud of the work I do. Enclosed is a before and after picture.

Now - I am ready and excited to start a family of my own. Good luck with yours.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

11147

