

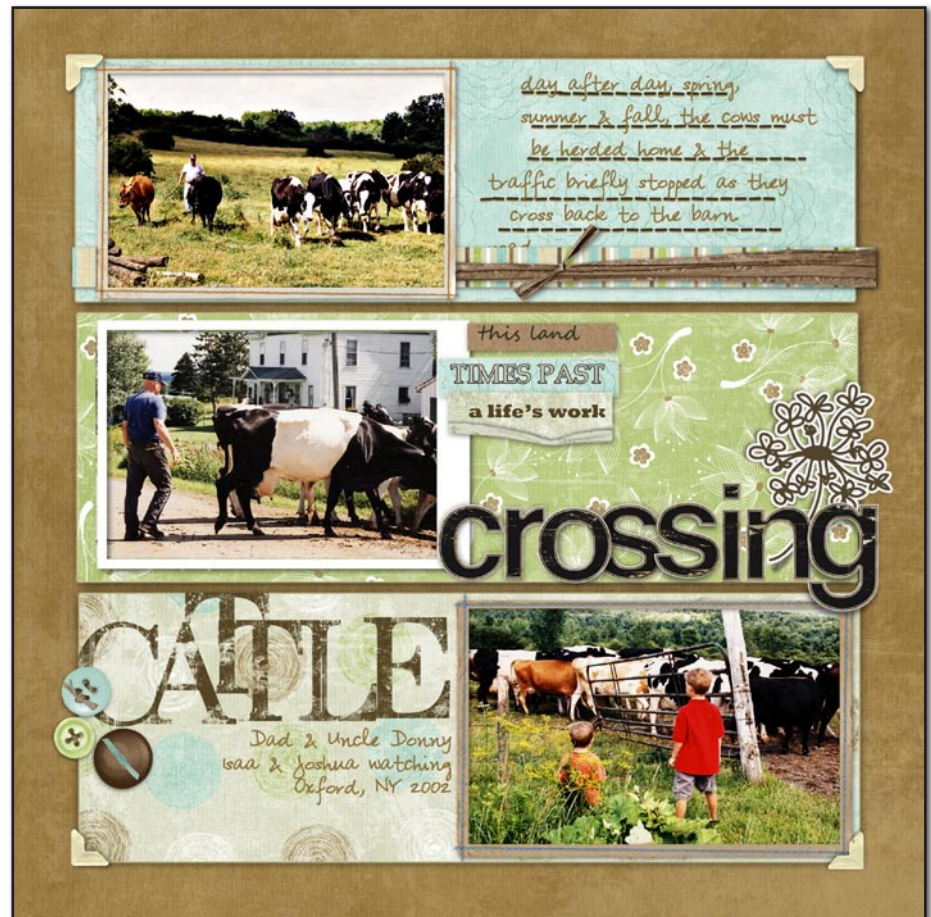
CLASS # 2: At Home

- Everyday life at home
- Taking everyday life photos
- Scrapbooking photos of people
- Sketches for scrapbooking everyday life

EVERYDAY LIFE AT HOME

Whether you live alone, with a pet, with children, and/or with other adults, your home life is unlike that of anyone else's. Your routines, your collection of cooking spices, your hobbies and routines are unique. Here are some prompts for scrapbooking what goes on in your home. Use this list to get ideas for subjects to scrapbook AND as a spur to taking photos-like, perhaps, the inside of your fridge or your bag by the door before work.

The first 19 years of my life, morning and evening cattle crossing in good weather could be counted on like death and taxes, and this layout records and celebrates this constant in my family's life.



the routines in your home

So how do you do it at your house? Do what? Do just about anything. Our routines come out of personal preferences, necessity, tradition, and sometimes just plain old happenstance. Scrapbooking your routines is a fun way to step back and appreciate your daily life as well as create a record of it.

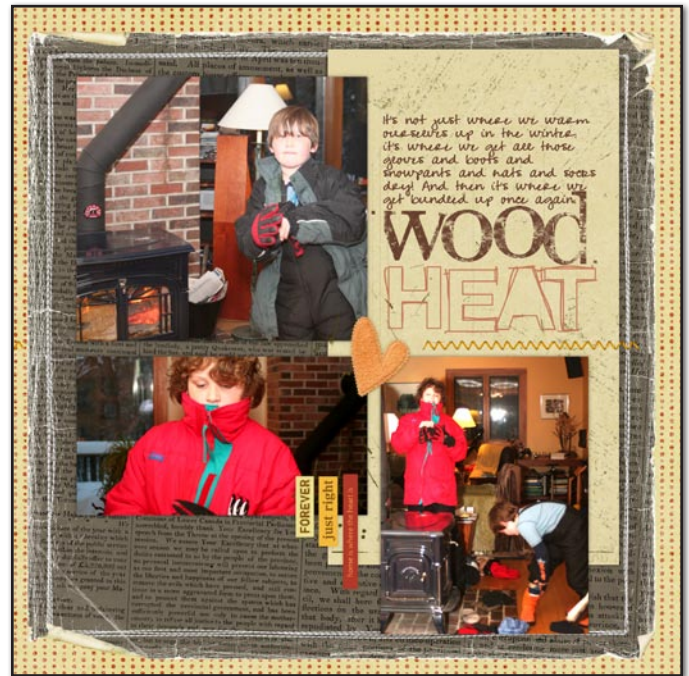
I could list routines that I know of for you to scrapbook – but what if you have routines around activities I don't even realize? So--grab a pencil, consider these categories of scappable at-home everyday life, and start jotting answers and ideas for pages.

- what is a typical day like for you?

What is the routine of an entire day? And, then, what are the routines around the smaller parts of your day?



“Bedtime Delay Tactic #28” tells the story of what bedtimes for my children were like in January 2008. It’s a year and 1/2 later now and things have already changed. Glad I scrapbooked this!



“Wood Heat” captures the feeling of what it’s like around our house in the winter--so many clothes to bundle up in and they’re usually drying by the wood stove.

Once you've thought about that--take this exercise farther and answer the question for several kinds of typical days you might have: weekdays, workdays, weekends, holidays . . .

Example: This is how a typical non-summer weekday goes for me. At 5:30 or 6 am I get up first and spend time alone. From 6:30 - 8:15 I get the boys up, fed, packed, and on their separate buses. From 8:30 - 2, I work at my desk. From 2 - 3:30 I clean house & generally get ready for everyone to come home. Dinner's usually at 6. Then there's dishes, homework help, often laundry and more work. Boys to bed and more work.

That's the "big picture" of my typical weekday. I could then zoom in on any of these areas and find several pages I'd like to do. The morning alone time could include my chair, my diet coke, my laptop and emails, and "Morning Joe" on MSNBC.

- what are your routines around out-of-the-ordinary days?

Do you have a particular way of approaching shopping, doctor visits, long drives, whatever it is that you do less regularly but that, still, you do in your own way.



These layouts look at how we handle “special occurrences” in our home. “I am a Schleppee” scrapbooks my propensity for packing LOTS of stuff when I go to the beach. [CLICK](#) for journaling. “Power Outage” is a look at how our routines around the too-frequent power outages we experience. [CLICK](#) for journaling.



- what are your routines around particular seasons?

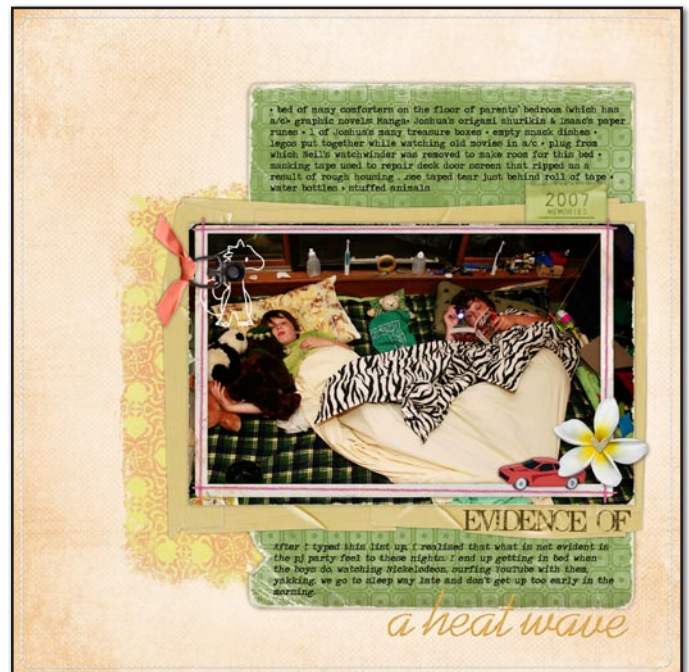
Climate and holidays are most likely to spur these kinds of routines. Once winter arrives around here, we need to get our boots and snowpants out of storage. What's more, we need to rearrange our limited storage to accommodate these extras clothes and make them accessible. When spring arrives, there's yet another clothing change over. What's more, spring where we live means a lot of raking of the sticks and additional leaves that came down over the winter.

What do your seasons demand of you? Do you plant a garden? Do you enjoy shopping for fall clothes? Is there a "battening" down of the hatches you do if cold weather is moving in? Seasonal activities for keeping your home running smoothly are fun to scrapbook so that you remember where and how you were living, what current technology demanded or offered, and how things change over the years.

- where do your routines come from? Finally, think about the origins of your routines—about whether personality, necessity, tradition or something else is driving them. Which routines come



“Don’t Be Fooled” and “Evidence of a Heat Wave” both record our routines and necessary objects for different extremes of weather.



out of a personal attitude? For example, is attending opera or theater essential to a good life in your mind and do you have routines around it? Are you a do-it-yourselfer? Do you live in an area with a lot of rain or snow or sun, and does that drive a routine?

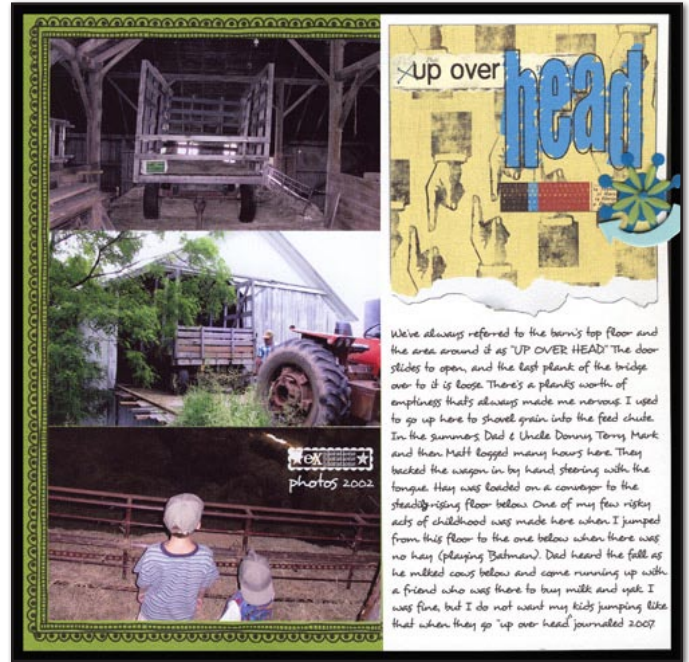
the people & culture of your home

Your "ways" or your home's culture is a fascinating subject. This quote is about one "tribes" knowledge of their own unique home culture:

We know one another's faults, virtues, catastrophes, mortifications, triumphs, rivalries, desires, and how long we can each hang by our hands to a bar. We have been banded together under pack codes and tribal laws. -Rose Macaulay

Here are a few things to think about as you observe and scrapbook the daily life and culture of your home:

- who (if anyone) do you live with? how has this come about? how do the different members of your home (including pets) impact daily life?
- what do you call things? what do you call each other? what are frequent expressions and sayings in your home?
- what role does work play in your life or in



Here are two layouts that look at how my family does things; i.e., our culture. "Up Over Head" is about what we call a particular spot -- a phrase we don't find odd until we say it to someone new to our lives. "The Players" is an examination of the "gaming" personalities in our family -- with a fun analysis of each player. CLICK for journaling.

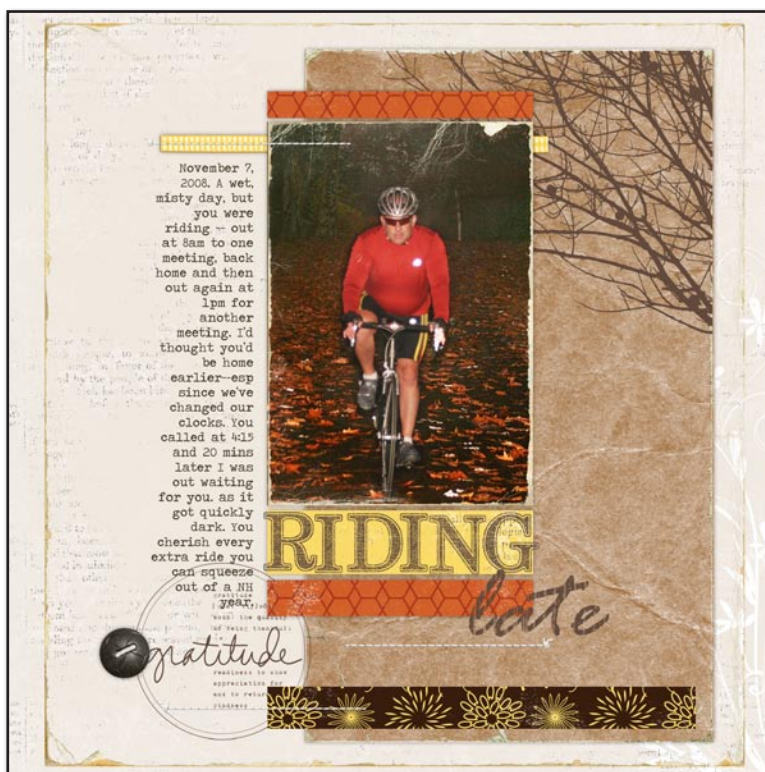


the lives of others in your home?
what are the attitudes around it?
how much time does it consume
and what are both its benefits and
detriments?

- what do you do for play in your home? how often and how well do you play? what are the objects used in your play (books, yarn, music) and how did you acquire them? how do others regard your play? what does it mean to you? where do you play? inside or outside? are particular play activities done in a specific spot in your home?
- what role do faith and religion play in your daily life?
- how is money a factor in your home? how is it regarded? how hard is it to come by? what are your behaviors around spending and giving and what emotions are connected to money?

For each of these, think about which you'd like to document, which you'd like to think more deeply about, and what the incidents and stories are that you could tell to really illustrate "how it is."

The layouts on this page take a look at the play habits of my husband and my oldest son. My husband loves riding his bike, and my son is always looking for craft projects that have to do with weapons -- the latest being modifying nerf guns to shoot harder and look cool. [CLICK](#) for "Riding Late" journaling.



food, shelter, & "stuff"

- food

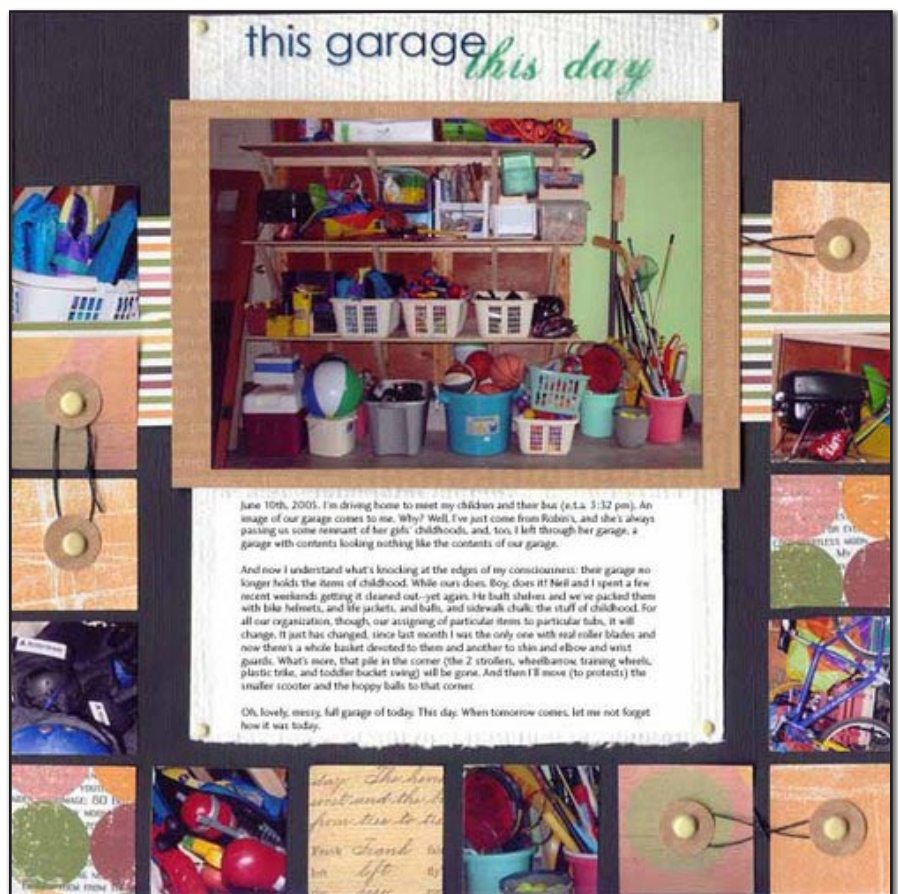
Food is one of those necessities of life. How do you approach the various aspects of it in your home? Think about the following and see what it inspires you to scrapbook:

- ◇ *ingredients*: shopping, storing, your pantry and/or fridge contents
- ◇ *preparation*: who does it and how
- ◇ *meals*: favorites, snacks, where you eat, which plates you use for everyday meals, typical seating arrangement

- things

The items that are in your home, as well as the items that you regularly procure for your home, reveal not only your taste, but the rhythms of your daily life. Stop and look around your home, and--here's the tricky part--identify which items in your home *are relevant* to the story of who you (or others in your home) are.

Example: My husband is obsessed with biking and with shoes -- and we have storage for shoes in odd places. There's a basket of biking shoes in the corner of the kitchen. There's a shelf over the door in the mudroom full of his shoes.



"This Garage, This Day" is one of my favorite layouts ever. I captures our garage and its contents at one moment in time, several years ago. The journaling considers how ever changing the things in our life are right now as our children grow. [CLICK](#) for journaling.

There are always at least 10 pair under our bed. While my sons and I each get a half shelf for our shoes in the mudroom, my husband has a full shelf and then a plastic tub that's always full of the overflow. And me? Well I have a nook off our bedroom devoted to scrapbooking. My youngest son has what we call "the wall of love" (floor-to-ceiling shelves full of stuffed animals), and my oldest son has a huge assortment of swords at the foot of his bed -- everything from the Dollar Store pirate sword from 8 years ago to a walnut Viking waster. Just reading these details I've written here, you've gotten ideas about who we are.

- shelter

Shelter is another necessity of life, and you could scrap many aspects of it, ranging from a record of the physical details to journaling about how you feel about it. The preview lesson for this class on "Scrapbooking Your Everyday Places" covers this topic in more depth.

Think about how you could scrapbook a record of how your home looks--inside and out. Include your favorite spots, quirks (i.e., noisy furnace), charm (i.e., southern sun in the living room), décor, the constants, the changes brought with different seasons, as well as transforming remodels, or simply the effect of moving some furniture.

TAKING EVERYDAY LIFE PHOTOS

Think about this next statement and let it guide your everyday photography:

The photos you take of everyday life are not necessarily pictures from memorable events, but, rather, they are representative illustrations of your life. What I mean is: you don't snap that photo of taking out the garbage because it was one very special garbage night, but rather to have a snapshot of a recurring activity in your life.

Now that I've shared my profound (;-) thoughts on everyday life photos, here are some practical tips:

Keep the batteries charged, the card empty, and the camera handy.

This way it's easy to take photos. What's more – if you're photographing people, hand the camera (ready to shoot) to them, and ask them to take a couple of pictures of you. Get your kids, spouses, and friends in the habit of including you.

Consider and include context.

That living room décor is going to change eventually, so get parts of it into the photos. The same goes for parks, restaurants, and other favorite haunts. Take some photos that are farther back to reveal the location.

Be the wall(flower).

Try to be unobtrusive so that your subjects continue what they're doing naturally. Shoot for a while without saying "look here!" Use your zoom lens to stay back and still get closer-in shots. Listen to



This photo of a friend and her new boyfriend was taken AFTER some posed shots---and THIS is the shot they both love most. Not only have I captured a bit of their relationship, I've also got the context of the crowd at the school picnic, which immediately recalls that day for them.

what's going on—and maybe use it in your journaling. When you have patience and can get your subjects relaxed and natural and engaged, you can get photos that reveal relationships--through their activities, their body language, how and when they look at each other and even how they engage with each other when you ask them to pose.

Make sure to get one good shot

It can be really hard to get good group activity shots (at the pool, on the basketball court, having a snowball fight, playing ball in the yard). It's a disappointment when your photos end up full of small subjects and lots of landscape. While

See the photo here of my father and his granddaughter. You can sense his gentleness and her interest. The detail photos of the birdfeeders give context to the photo of them which might otherwise not be immediately understandable.



you should absolutely capture that energy and context, try, also, to take the time to get one good shot. This could be a close-up of one or two subjects, a group pose at the end of the event, or a picture of something important in the environment or activity (i.e., a mittened hand holding a snowball). When you have this one good shot, it will focus your page and make clear what the activity is.

The action photos from a neighborhood snowball fight are given focus when the group shot is added.

When you're not going to be at the main event take a photo before or after with some indication of what's coming and use that with journaling— the concert tickets, the sleepover bag packed, the golf clubs in the trunk. The photos here show my youngest son just before he left for his first sleepover--an event I didn't get to witness but sure want to remember.



Connect the people in your photos to their activity

Any time your scrapbook page has photos of people "on stage"—playing a game, preparing a meal, packing their briefcase—the viewer can more quickly understand your subject. If there are items nearby that are a part of the activity—a shovel, a book, a fishing pole—get them into your subjects' hands.



SCRAPBOOKING PHOTOS OF PEOPLE

Photos of people are naturally engaging. The following are tips for cropping and placing photos of people onto the page for best results.

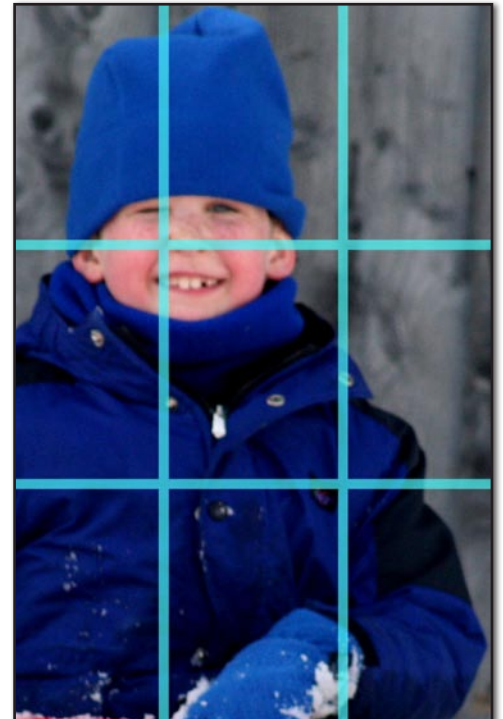
mix up your crops

Avoid having every person positioned in the middle of the photo. Some approaches for this include:

- thinking about the sweet spot. Mentally divide your photo into three equal columns and three equal rows and try to crop so that your subject's face sits at an intersection of dividing lines.
- cropping at a variety of distances. Crop some photos close in on the subject's face and shoulders and others with relevant context farther back.
- rotating your crop for a bit for energy. This is most easily done with photo-editing software. In Photoshop, you can drag out your cropping area, then position your cursor at a corner of the crop area, click and drag to rotate.

see where they're looking

The direction in which your subject is facing or looking is the direction in which the viewer's eye will move. Consciously crop and place photos of people to guide



the viewer's eye into your page. If you have multiple subjects, you may even use these photos to guide the eye through the layout and then back around again.

- Position the photo of a subject looking to the right, more toward the left side of your page (and vice versa). Be aware, also, of subjects and their activities implying downward or upward movement and place accordingly. A photo of a subject looking down would be better placed toward the top of the layout rather than at the bottom where it would guide the eye off the page.
- When a subject is looking straight ahead, use cropping to direct the eye. If you crop so that your subject sits more on the left side of the photo, the viewer's eye will move to the right (and vice versa).

Compare the two rows of photos here. The first is randomly arranged. The second uses more careful placement and cropping to move the eye across the row and back. On the next page, see how I used even more photos from this shoot -- all portraits on a layout.





The cropping and placement of these photos keeps your eye moving through the layout rather than off the page.

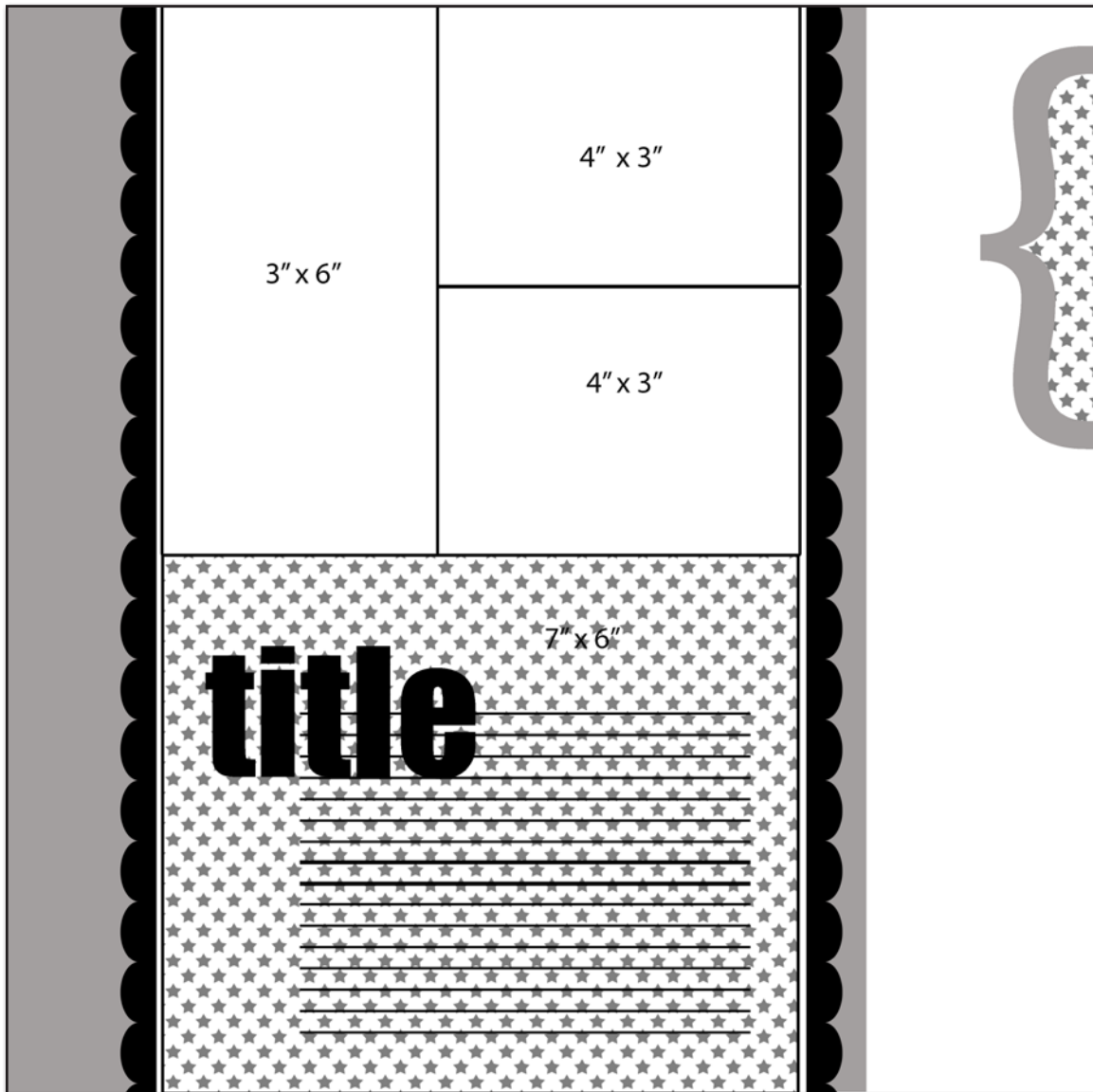
GET IT SCRAPPED!

Now it's time for you to use these prompts and suggestions to scrapbook your everyday life. You should already have some lists going from the prompts in the first section, and hopefully they've spurred ideas for pages you'd like to scrap. If not, here are some activities to get you going:

- Outline a typical day for you. Select one bit of that day and scrapbook it.
- Make a list of your "seasonal" routines. What do you do when a new season arrives? Select one of these and scrapbook it.
- Make of list of your hobbies and playtime activities at home. Scrapbook one of them.

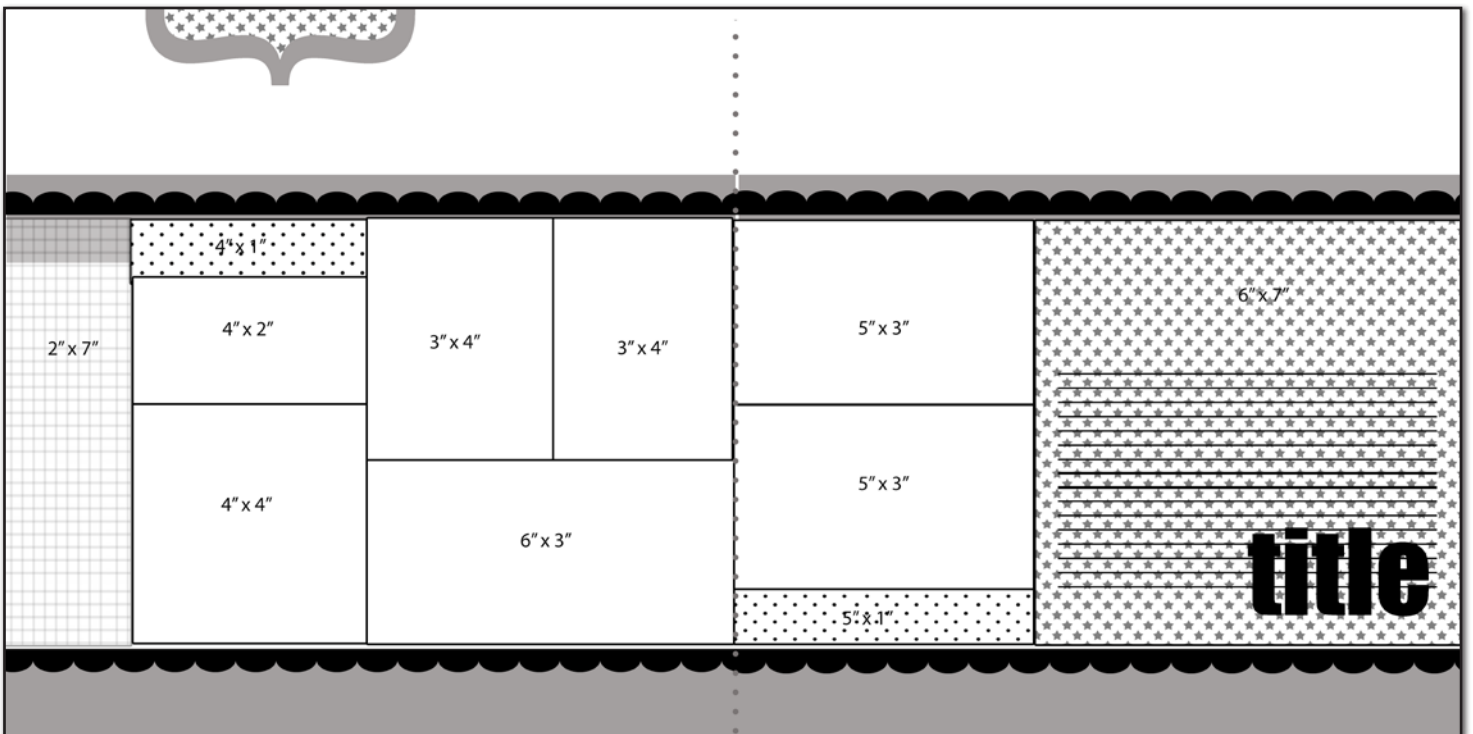
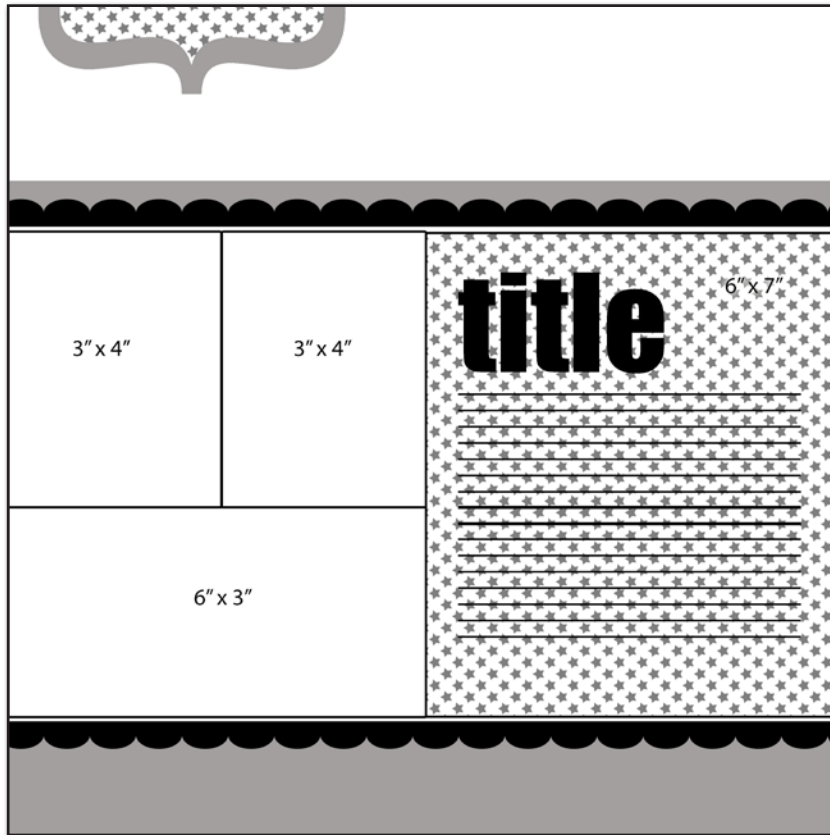
SKETCHES

[CLICK HERE](#) to download layered templates.



SCRAPBOOKING EVERYDAY LIFE

Class #2: Everyday Life at Home
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JOURNALING: "Schlepper"

I take a lot of stuff to the beach--shovels, buckets, chair, pop-up tent, food, drink, extra clothes, sand-sculpting tools. This behavior extends to other outings. I think it has to do with wanting to be prepared--but, even more, it may be that I think if I'm prepared, I have control & then all is right with the world. In my defense, I'd like to point out that at least I'm a self-aware schlepper. 08*07 [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: "Power Outage"

Isaac said, "You (speaking of people in general) get excited when you think you're getting a power outage and then you get it and it's not as good as you thought." Smile On this Saturday night in February, our power went out at about 5:30 pm. I had just finished making dinner, the weather wasn't bitterly cold, and it wasn't a huge inconvenience--but there sure was way more complaining than (I think) folk in NH ought to make (And we are NOT getting a generator!) After we ate, I walked to the end of the road and found that a pickup truck had careened into the pole feeding our neighborhood's underground utilities. No one was hurt, and I got the boys and we hung out at the site yakking with neighbors & firemen and watching the progress of taking the old pole down and retipping the pick-up truck, and then we went and got Neil to join us for a while. When we got back we hung out in our bedroom with candles. Isaac got into bed next to Neil and fell asleep immediately, and Joshua spent time doing some coordinate graphing problems he'd downloaded earlier. We went to bed with extra blankets and the power came on about 1 a.m. And that's a true story. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: "This Garage, This Day"

June 10th, 2005. I'm driving home to meet my children and their bus (e.t.a. 3:32 pm). An image of our garage comes to me. Why? Well, I've just come from Robin's, and she's always passing us some remnant of her girls' childhoods, and, too, I left through her garage, a garage with contents looking nothing like the contents of our garage. And now I understand what's knocking at the edges of my consciousness: their garage no longer holds the items of childhood. While ours does. Boy, does it! Neil and I spent a few recent weekends getting it cleaned out--yet again. He built shelves and we've packed them with bike helmets, and life jackets, and balls, and sidewalk chalk: the stuff of childhood. For all our organization, though, our assigning of particular items to particular tubs, it will change. It just has changed, since last month I was the only one with real roller blades and now there's a whole basket devoted to them and another to shin and elbow and wrist guards. What's more, that pile in the corner (the 2 strollers, wheelbarrow, training wheels, plastic trike, and toddler bucket swing) will be gone. And then I'll move (to protests) the smaller scooter and the hoppy balls to that corner. Oh, lovely, messy, full garage of today. This day. When tomorrow comes, let me not forget how it was today. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: "Up Over Head"

Since I can remember--probably since Dad moved here at ten years old--we've called the barn's top floor and the area outside and around it "up over head." The sliding barn door and the plank bridge over to it are so familiar to me. And now, even though Dad has very few cows and doesn't put in much hay, Joshua and Isaac like to go "up over head," whenever we're visiting. To get a wagon backed into the third floor, Dad unhooks it from the tractor and holds the tongue for steering and runs the wagon back into the mow. I love going here, to the narrow band of floor looking down to the mows below, the pigeons cooing, the hay elevators, the bales, the chaff on the floor, and the dust in the air when a shaft of sun comes in the small peak window. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: "Players"

Joshua

strength: strategy

weakness: wiggles, yaks, and reveals cards

Monopoly piece of choice: cannon or horseman

player color preference: it depends on his mood

games of choice: Battleship, Risk, Heroscape, All the King's Men, Lionheart

defining attribute(s): honesty and fun spirit

Debbie

strength: experience

weakness: sympathy for losing player

Monopoly piece of choice: shoe; player color preference: yellow

games of choice: Any kind of Rummy, Chinese Checkers;

defining attribute: optimism (this from Joshua)

Isaac

strength: logic and fantastic rule recall

weakness: fear of losing

Monopoly piece of choice: dog

player color preference: blue or red

games of choice: Checkers, Mastermind, Rat-a-tat-cat

defining attribute: competitive nature

Neil

strength: anticipation of opponents' strategy

weakness: lets guard down when confident

Monopoly piece of choice: car

player color preference: yellow or orange

games of choice: Gin Rummy, Backgammon

defining attribute: ruthlessness

[CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: "Riding Late"

November 7, 2008. A wet, misty day, but you were riding -- out at 8am to one meeting, back home and then out again at 1pm for another meeting. I'd thought you'd be home earlier--esp since we've changed our clocks. You called at 4:15 and 20 mins later I was out waiting for you. as it got quickly dark. You cherish every extra ride you can squeeze out of a NH year. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.