

CLASS #3: Friends & Extended Family

- Everyday life with friends and extended family
- Revealing character on the scrapbook page
- Sketch bundle for scrapbooking everyday life

EVERYDAY LIFE WITH FRIENDS AND EXTENDED FAMILY

Taking photos of times spent with friends and extended family and getting them into your albums gives you pages that spur not only memories of the specific times you're recording, but, also, of the nature of your relationships. Over time, some friendships fade while new ones grow strong. Familial relationships and customs change too: teen cousins hanging out with each other look a lot different from toddler cousins playing with toys. A look at your album pages over time is a great revealer of these trends.

Pull out your notebook and go through the following points, making lists and jotting down ideas that occur to you. This is where you figure out

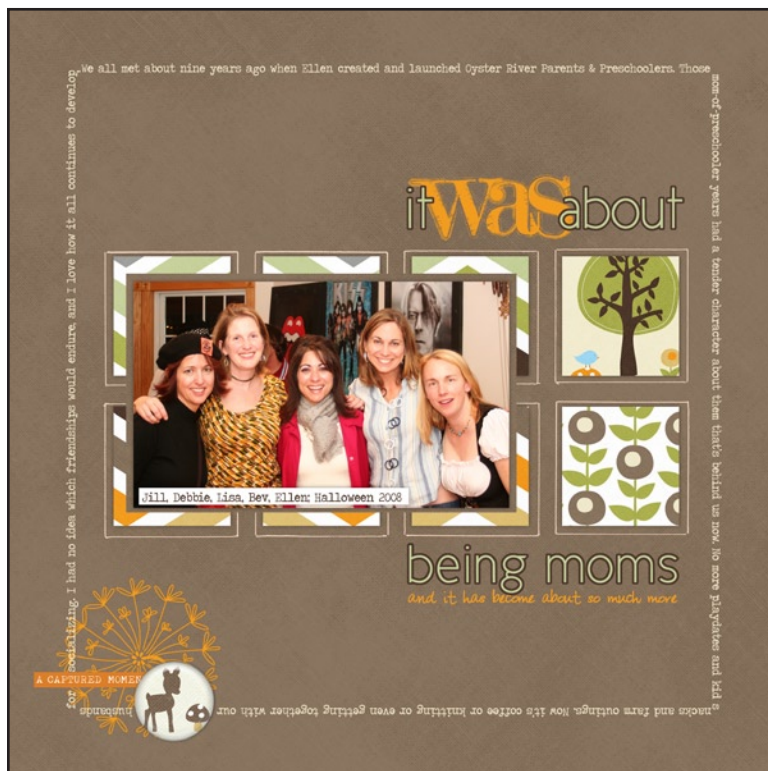


“Coffee Mates” is a layout about MY friends -- the women I have coffee with when the kids are in school. [CLICK](#) here for journaling.

who the people in your “daily”hood are and how they figure into your regular activities.

who are the friends and extended family you spend time with?

- Who are your own friends?
When do you spend time with them, and is it usually just your gang or are the others in your household incorporated?
- Who are the friends of your fellow householders?
What is the nature of the



The stories of your family members and their interactions with friends are a great record of personality and just . . . how you live. In “With Hope In Your Hearts” I told the story of a summer afternoon that my youngest son spent with a friend creating a “Huck Finn” experience. [CLICK here for journaling.](#)

It’s not always easy to find friends that everyone in your house enjoys, but when you can, it’s awesome. “It Was About Being Moms” is a layout that celebrates the evolution of friendships. [CLICK here for journaling.](#)

relationships that your children, roommates, partners, and/or spouses have?

- Who are the friends of your entire "household?"
Who are the people that your whole family interacts with? Maybe they come over for cookouts or go on outings together? Who are your neighbors, and how do they fit into your daily life?
- Who are the people you connect with because of organized groups and/or activities? This could include school, teams, church, clubs, and more.
- Who are the extended family members that figure into your everyday life?
Do you have family nearby? Or are there family members who visit you (or who you visit frequently?)



“Dadz In the Hood” is a look at the relationship between the guys in our neighborhood. [CLICK](#) for journaling.

“All This & More” records the place where so many of our extended family interactions take place -- the dinner table! [CLICK](#) for journaling.



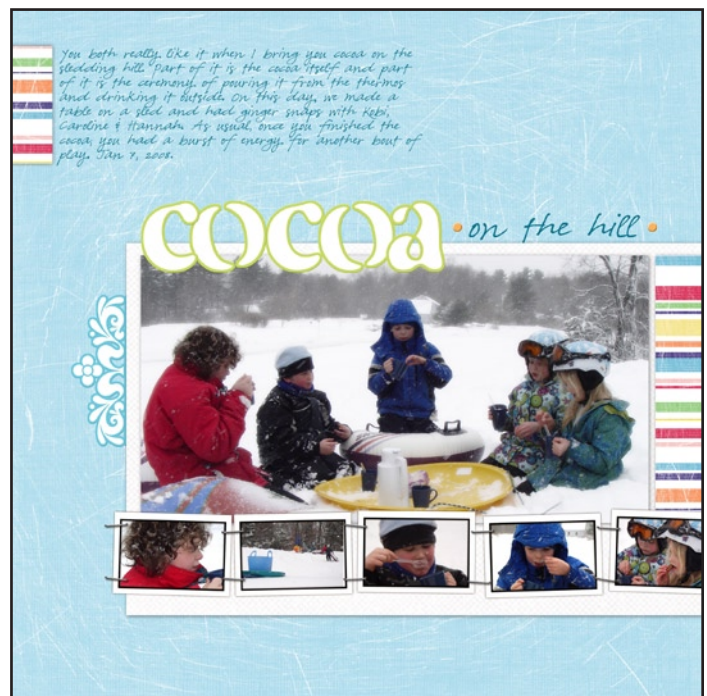
- Who are the “virtual” folks in your everyday life? Here, now, in 2009, you may well have people you interact with over the phone or computer regularly.
- **where do you spend time with friends & extended family and what do you do?**

Start making a list of the places where you regularly see friends & family. As you make this list, think about what you do together, and make notes about memorable outings or gatherings. Think also about stories to tell.

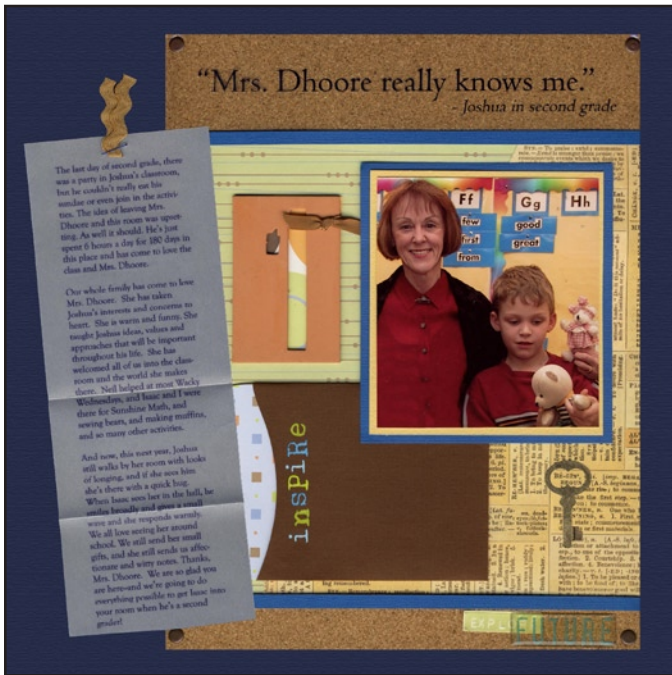
Do you meet at scheduled playdates? recreational outings? work or school-related activities? poker night? meals? parties? coffee?



I got to know Erin for almost a year at Designer Digitals before we met for breakfast at a diner north of Rochester. Meeting in real life has made our friendship more frequent and satisfying. [CLICK](#) for journaling.



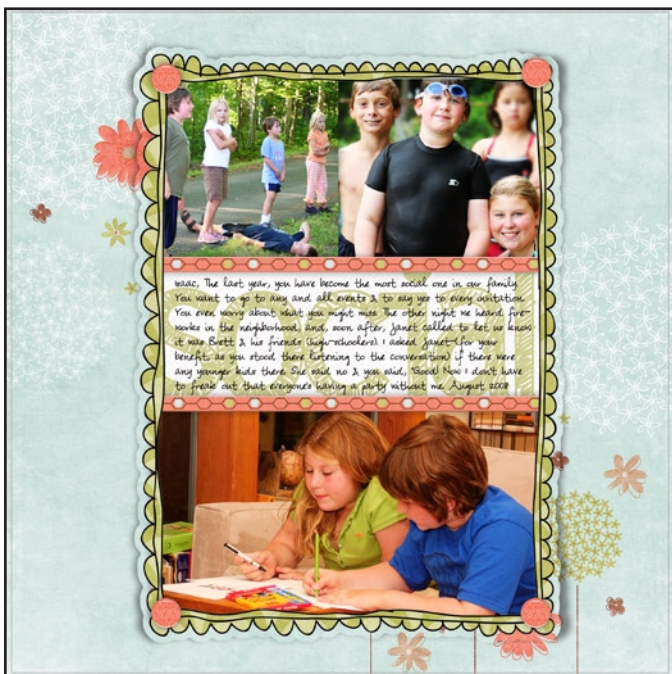
One place we often spend time with our neighbors is on the sledding hill in the winter. “Cocoa On The Hill” captures my sons with the neighbors taking a break from



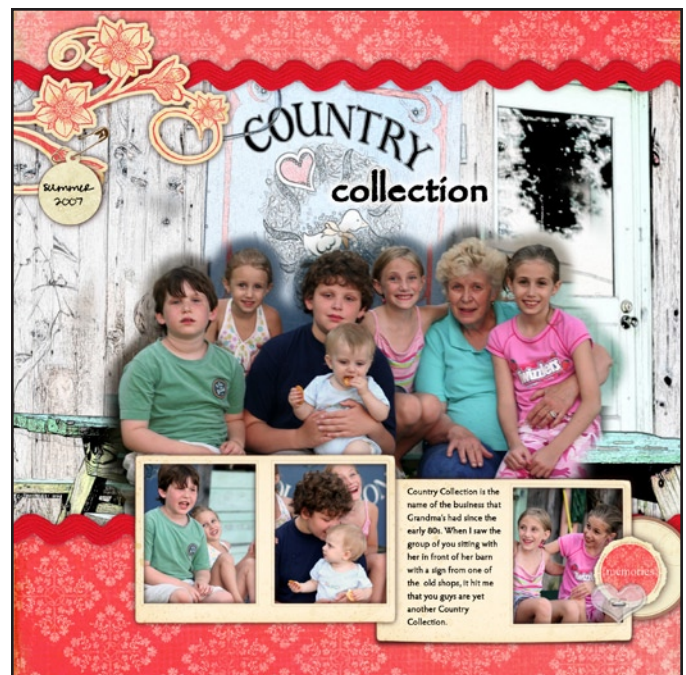
"Mrs. Dhoore Really Knows Me" is a page honoring my oldest son's relationship with his 2nd grade teacher. [CLICK](#) for journaling.



On "Its Measure" I used photos of our favorite summer outing to scrapbook how a recent summer measured up with others. [CLICK](#) for journaling.



"Social" not only shows my youngest son with several of his friends and considers his personality in light of his friendships. [CLICK](#) for journaling.



"Country Collection" shows my sons with their closest relatives in front of Grandma's barn -- the hub of her business (which we are all interested in and proud of).

CAPTURING & REVEALING CHARACTER ON THE PAGE

When you're scrapbooking photos of people, you've got an opportunity to document and show so much more than is immediately obvious. The things they're doing and how they're doing them, what they say and how they say it, and even the items they're holding or using or wearing may all point to more about their personality.

The examination of what people do and what it means has been going on as long ago as 475 B.C., when the Greek philosopher Heraclitus proposed that "A man's character is his fate." Heraclitus placed the fates right inside a person and maintained that we are all in control of our own destiny. Later, Aristotle saw the connection between action and character differently. He believed that individuals do not act in isolation. He spoke of how actions happen within a complex web of relationships and events that affect many more than just one person. Let's take a look at what you can do on your scrapbook pages to reveal character and leave a meaningful record of the people in your life. The following are four ways to take your pages beyond simple records of activity and convey more about the players' personalities.

reveal character by studying the artifacts

Look to the items in your photos--clothes, toys, tools, trinkets--and think about what they reveal about your subject that may not be obvious from the photo alone. As in the allegorical paintings I studied in art history, these artifacts often function as a metaphor or symbol for something more, perhaps a preoccupation, a style, or a need. "Much to Admire" is a study of my son's continued love of knightly toys even as he gets older.



CLICK for journaling.

reveal character by conveying abstract ideas with concrete evidence

Whenever you can SHOW something, as opposed to (or in addition to) TELLING, the viewer of your page gets to come to their own conclusion about your subject. Why should you care if the viewer figures it out on their own? To begin with, this draws them more deeply into your page and the events you're scrapbooking. It connects them to your story in an active way, it's satisfying to observe evidence and connect the dots on one's own, and it's all more believable.

The way to show--as opposed to tell--is to accumulate evidence, to build up the concrete details we talked about in lesson #2. Your job is to include the details that reveal your subjects' opinions, sorrows, aspirations, prejudices, phobias, interests, regrets, joys and much more.

An abstract is a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance. Examples are "good," "proud," and "kind," which I used to title my layout here. What was I thinking in so obviously using this abstract? I was thinking I sure better provide some evidence that my son is kind--and I did in my photos and my journaling.

The two photos in "Kind" (on the previous page) are from an instance of kindness related in the journaling. These photos were, in fact, what spurred me to create the page. These everyday photos of a scraped knee took me to an exploration of one aspect of my oldest son's personality.

I began the journaling with an introduction to the page's subject by writing about a conversation I'd recently had with my oldest son about him being "kind," I dropped in a few lines of dialogue from that moment, and it served as an introduction to the photos and the story going on in the photos, which I wrote about next. From there I added several more pieces of "evidence" (specific and particular incidents) to make sure I'd earned my abstract title.



CLICK for journaling.

reveal character when you consider what behavior implies

If Aristotle is right and “action is character,” then a look at what your subjects do and the choices they make is a great place to start to make pages that show who the people on your pages really are. When you’ve got photos from an outing, event, or everyday situation that you’d like to scrap, try this:

- Begin by asking what is/are your subject(s) doing?

In “Persistence is the Up Side of Stubborn,” my son is rolling a hoop at a local museum.

- Connect this obvious action to what it says about the character or personality of your subject(s), including what it might say about attitudes, approaches, and just a general way of being.



CLICK for journaling.

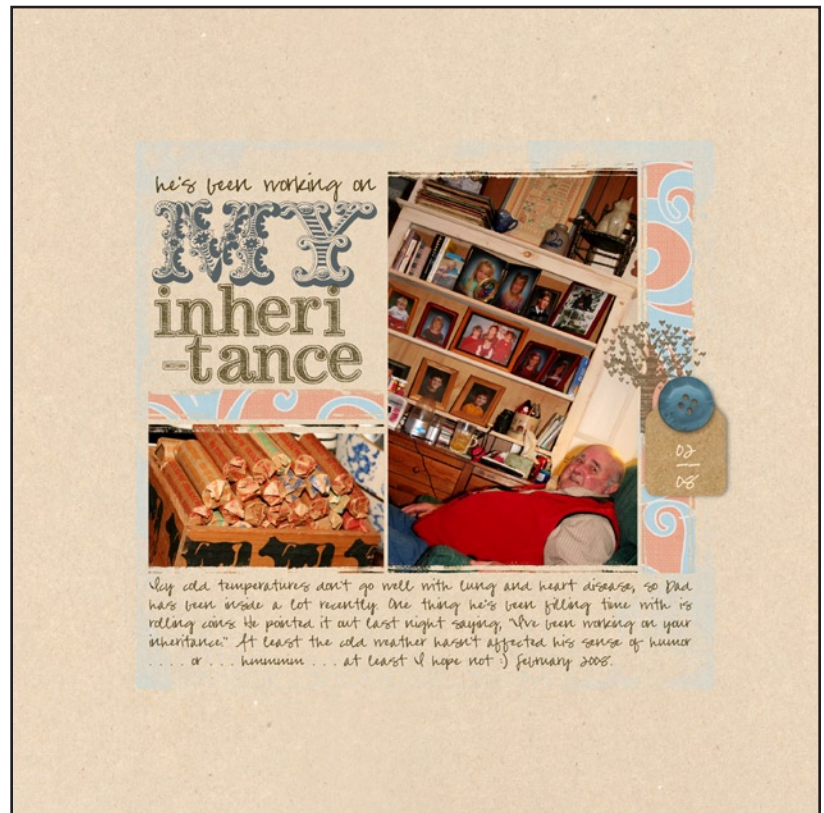
My son did not want to stop trying to get the hang of rolling a hoop. He kept doing it over and over. This is how he approaches many things in life and the journaling uses the photo as a springboard to talk about this aspect of his personality.

reveal character by including voice

“Let’s see what she says about that!” or “What did he say about it?” How often do you hear or even express this exact sentiment? There’s an anticipation and satisfaction in hearing people speak. Whenever you can convey what a person says and how they say it, you’ve got a character-revealing record.

You can convey voice by:

- Including direct dialogue. This would be specific things said and placed in quotation marks.
- Including indirect dialogue. This would be a recounting of a conversation but not with the specific words of the speaker.
- Writing from your own point of view in the way that you speak and think to capture your own voice.
- Writing with a 1st-person point of view, but as if you were your subject, trying to express thoughts as they would.

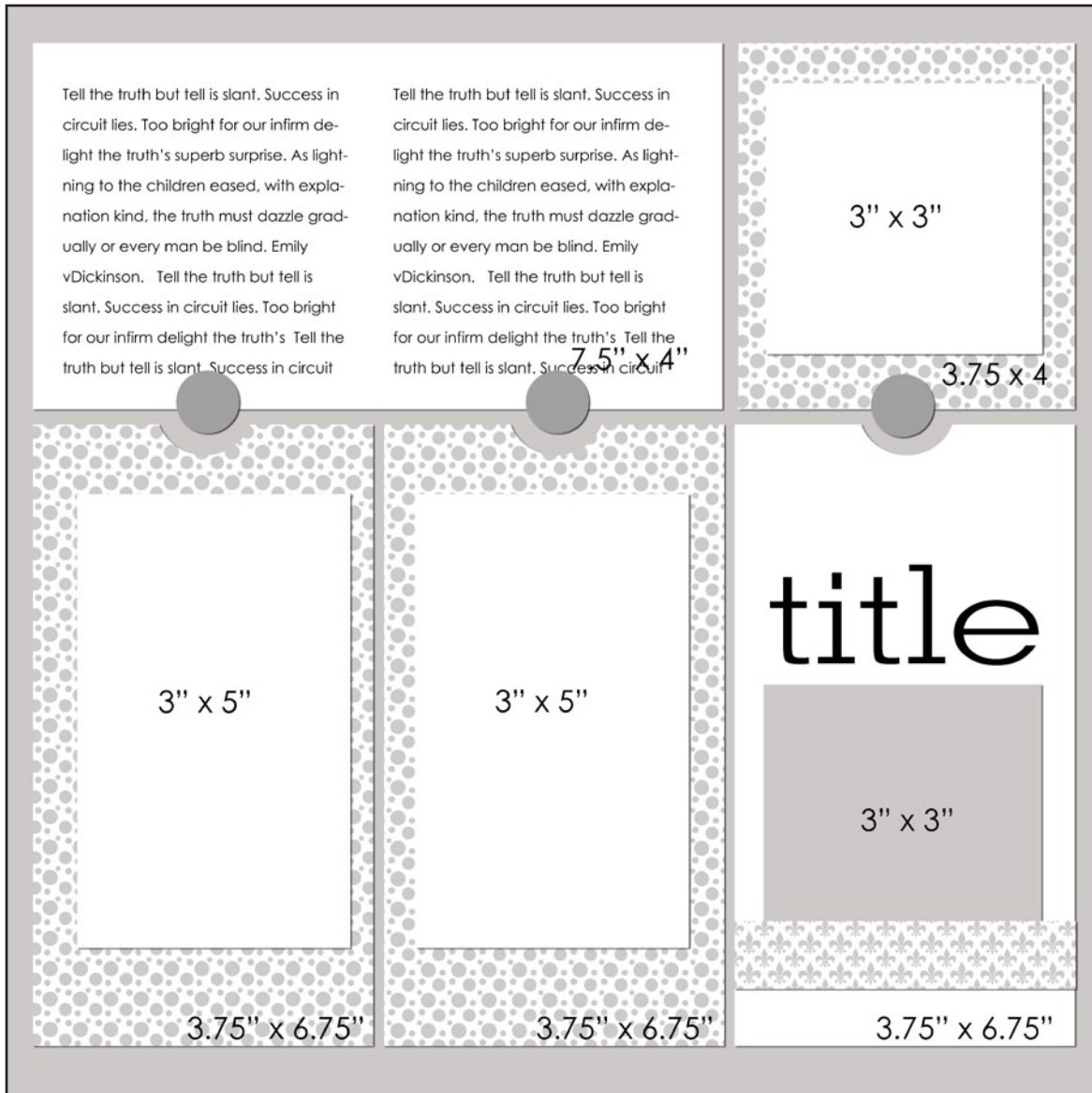


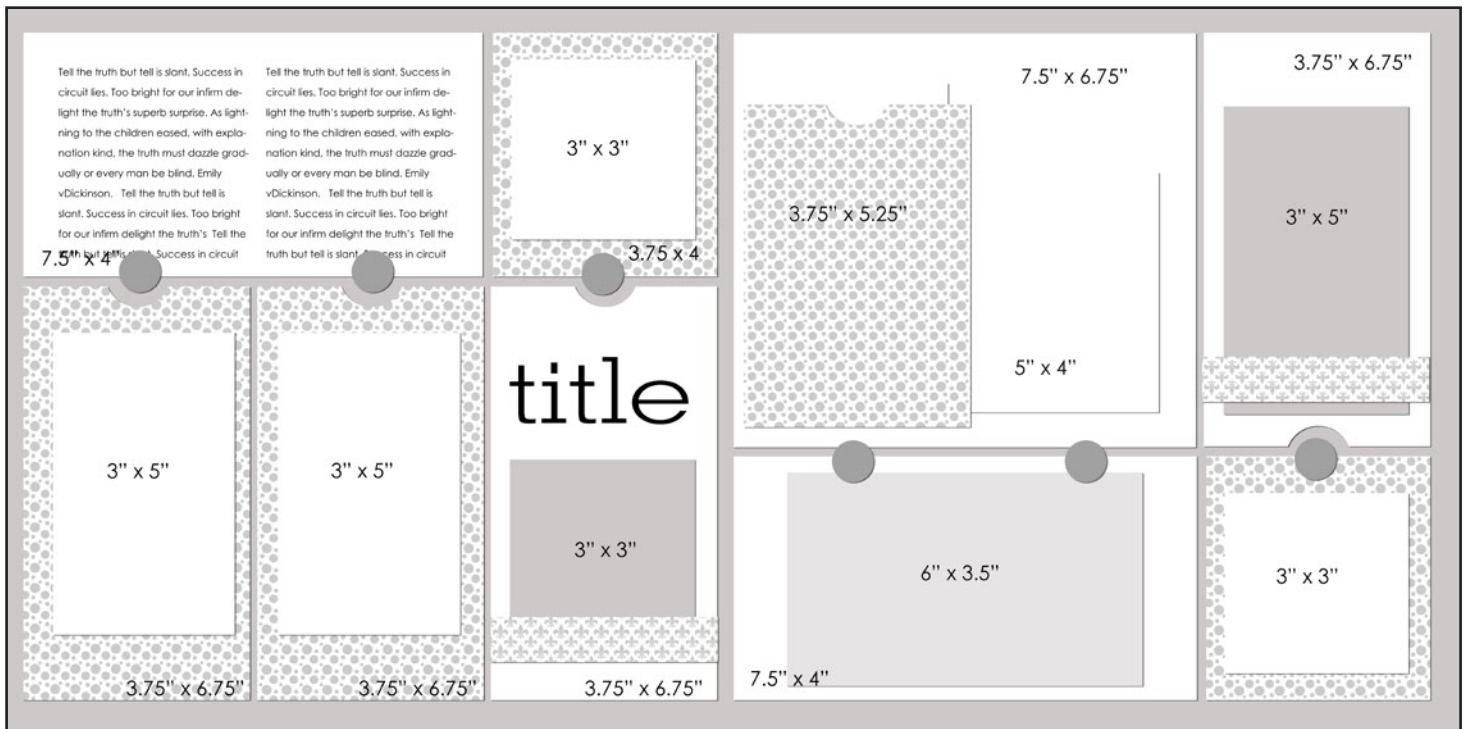
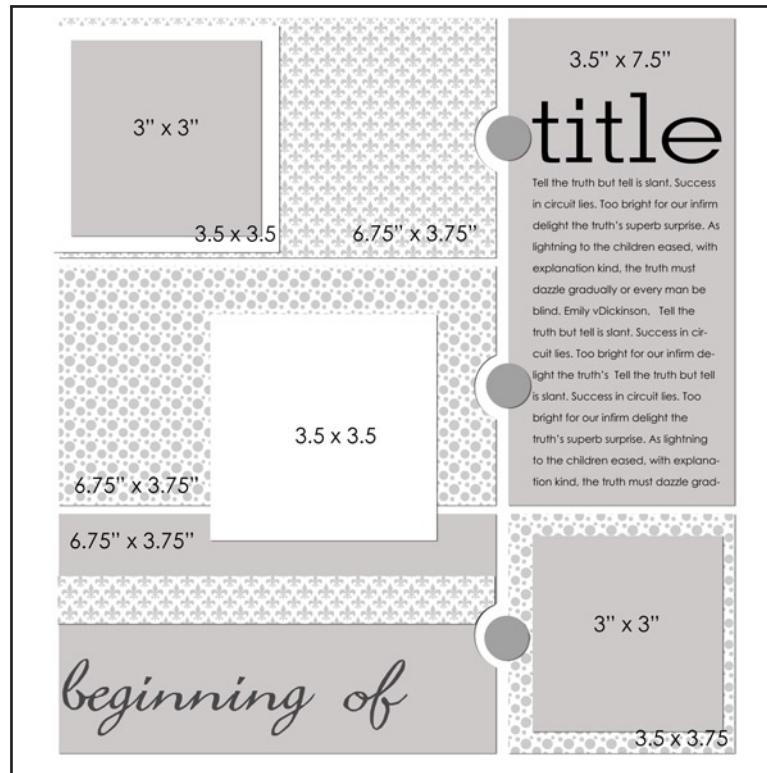
CLICK for journaling.

The journaling in “My Inheritance” is brief and to the point and includes one short line of dialogue from my Dad. With this, I don’t need to comment on how he said it because of the wry humor behind the statement. What I do include, though, is his tough health situation which is important context since it shows how he’s bearing up and keeping a sense of humor in hard times. I included a photo of my Dad smiling at me which cues the viewer to his good humor. I also included a photo of the “artifact” here -- the rolled pennies.

SKETCH BUNDLE FOR SCRAPBOOKING EVERYDAY LIFE

CLICK here to download layered templates.





JOURNALING: “All This & More.”

Brought to us by . . . Barb, aka Mom, aka Grandma. You have made this meal . . for how many years? 40? at least? and while the faces around the table slowly change over time, there are always many happy ones. You not only make FABULOUS food, you make us all feel welcomed & well-loved. Thanks, Mom. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “Coffee Mates.”

Coffee on Thursdays is easier to pull off when the kids are in school. However, summer doesn't mean we need to see each other any less. Thanks, Elaine, for making calls and getting us all to the beach on this summer Thursday. I loved the whole day, and so did the kids. Jill, me, Bev, Elaine. Newcastle. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “Dadz In the Hood.”

Three very different guys with, still, much in common, including our neighborhood, young children, an appreciation of current culture, & similar hopes for your families & country. When I saw you together this last Sunday, I understood that you all get each other. You all like each other, and when you come together whether at the bus stop or a party, you enjoy each others' company and value each other's presence in our neighborhood. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “It Was About Being Moms.” We all met about nine years ago when Ellen created and launched Oyster River Parents & Preschoolers. Those mom-of-preschooler years had a tender character about them that's behind us now. No more playdates and kid snacks and farm outings. Now it's coffee or knitting or even getting together with our husbands for socializing. I had no idea which friendships would endure, and I love how it all continues to develop. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “Its Measure.” When I look back at any particular summer, I take its measure by several guides and one of them is the character of our beach outings. This summer of 2008 it was all about Jenness. When we weren't travelling and it wasn't raining, this was our preferred spot. Our company: the Mangans and the Waters -- the family of Joshua's new friend Charlie. A few others

made cameo appearances, many promised to show but didn't, and so these friends predominated. Other memories: we got a rolling cooler, the wagon started falling apart, Elaine always brought doughnuts, we began using an umbrella instead of the pop-up tent, I was often in pain or sick (tooth & ears), we usually parked in the \$10 lot across from the meters, and our meeting spot was 4 houses down on the non-lifeguard side. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “Kind.”

One day this past school year, Joshua, you talked to me about how you had several friends who were really POPULAR--and how they were your friends even though you weren't popular. “What do you mean?” I said. “People like you!” “Well, yeah, people like me because I'm kind, but these guys play sports and have their own band.” You weren't at all unhappy to consider yourself liked for your kindness and a step removed from being popular. And you ARE kind. Here, you've just brought Isaac in on the WAHHHmbulance after a fall in the yard, and I told him to sit while I got a bath running, but you wanted to soothe him and grabbed this book and started entertaining him. It's more, though, than when one of us is in immediate trouble -- you're the one who remembers if I've been sick or bothered by something the day before and you ask how I am and really wait to hear. I see you sometimes with Dad when he's tired and in pain and you spontaneously give him a huge hug. Even when you're away on a sleepover, if you & your friends are online, you check to see if Isaac's online and give him a holler, calling him “shortstuff” and sending that trademark kindness of yours hurtling through cyberspace to touch us all. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “Meeting Erin & Maisie.”

I'm not good at taking time to spend with friends --- let alone make new ones—but as I got to know Erin online and realized she didn't live all that far away from me, getting together seemed like a good idea. It turned out to be a great idea. I loved being able to talk in real life with someone about the online Designer Digitals community where we both spend so much of our time. We were immediately comfortable together. What's more, it was lovely getting to know Maisie --- to see the girl I'd read so much about-- in action. Thanks, Erin & Maisie for a lovely morning & here's to many more. October 2008. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “Mrs. Dhoore.”

The last day of second grade, there was a party in Joshua’s classroom, but he couldn’t really eat his sundae or even join in the activities. The idea of leaving Mrs. Dhoore and this room was upsetting. As well it should. He’s just spent 6 hours a day for 180 days in this place and has come to love the class and Mrs. Dhoore.

Our whole family has come to love Mrs. Dhoore. She has taken Joshua’s interests and concerns to heart. She is warm and funny. She taught Joshua ideas, values and approaches that will be important throughout his life. She has welcomed all of us into the classroom and the world she makes there. Neil helped at most Wacky Wednesdays, and Isaac and I were there for Sunshine Math, and sewing bears, and making muffins, and so many other activities.

And now, this next year, Joshua still walks by her room with looks of longing, and if she sees him she’s there with a quick hug. When Isaac sees her in the hall, he smiles broadly and gives a small wave and she responds warmly. We all love seeing her around school. We still send her small gifts, and she still sends us affectionate and witty notes. Thanks, Mrs. Dhoore. We are so glad you are here--and we’re going to do everything possible to get Isaac into your room when he’s a second grader! [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “Much to Admire.”

At about 5 years old, Joshua loved getting and playing with Papo figures of knights, horses, kings and other soldiers. By his 10th birthday he wasn’t playing with or thinking to buy them very often. I got him a knight and horse for his birthday, though, because I know he always appreciates treasures.

He opened this gift last, and his eyes started watering when he saw it. I thought maybe he was disappointed--maybe he had his hopes on something he didn’t get. I started making apologies: “Maybe this is too young--”

He said that he wasn’t upset.. “I’m happy,”

“Are you crying?”

“I’m happy, though. I’ve wanted this exact one forever.”

Here he is a growing-up 10-year-old who not only loves his knights, he understands what these toys have meant to him AND about him. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “My Inheritance.”

Icy cold temperatures don't go well with lung and heart disease, so Dad has been inside a lot recently. One thing he's been filling time with is rolling coins. He pointed it out last night saying, "I've been working on your inheritance." At least the cold weather hasn't affected his sense of humor . . . or . . . hmmm . . . at least I hope not. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “Persistence.”

Isaac, when you saw hoops at Strawberry Banke you HAD to try rolling them. & then try one more time. & again. You started figuring it out. You love mastering new skills & are willing to stick with a task even though you're not good at it at the beginning. I love this persistence. & I will try to recall it whenever I'm up against that vein of stubbornness in your personality. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “Social.”

Isaac, The last year, you have become the most social one in our family. You want to go to any and all events & to say yes to every invitation. You even worry about what you might miss. The other night we heard fireworks in the neighborhood, and, soon after, Janet called to let us know it was Brett & his friends (high-schoolers). I asked Janet (for your benefit, as you stood there listening to the conversation) if there were any younger kids there. She said no & you said, "Good! Now I don't have to freak out that everyone's having a party without me. August 2008 [CLICK](#) to return to layout.

JOURNALING: “With Hope In Your Hearts.”

Isaac, You came home one Friday and said you needed to have Tom over because you guys were going to build a raft and go on a 2 or 3 day trip. On Sunday, Tom came, and you asked me if you could have a particular piece of plywood in the basement. As I sat on the screened porch with the mom of Josh's friend, I heard hammering. Brian had brought you some wood from a tree they'd cut down & you'd found hammers & nails. The river was high and moving faster than usual because we'd had a lot of rain. I found a rope to tie to the raft which you carried down and launched. It would not stay afloat with your weight, but you played with it just the same. The biggest joy was that you 2 had thought it up AND made it happen. 09/08. [CLICK](#) to return to layout.