

## Dinner Guest Creative Writing Project

There will be two parts of this assignment.

### **Part I: Written Script**

### **Part II: Filmed interview**

Your task will be to “invite” one person to dinner. You will interview the person you chose to invite to your dinner table.

The person you invite must fit the following criteria:

1. Can be alive or dead
2. Must NOT be someone you see on a regular basis
3. CAN be someone you have never met
4. Can be of any age

### **Part I: Written Script**

TASK: You will write out the interview between you and the person you “invite” to your dinner table. This will be written in script form (example below).

In the script, you will be asking the person questions about anything school appropriate and your guest will be responding. Your script should be mostly your guest’s responses. Please use the following guidelines as you write your script:

1. Script format
2. Question/Answer format
3. Mostly your guest speaking
4. Must be realistic answers (must be something the guest might actually say)
5. Proper grammar (while staying true to how the person would actually talk)
6. Proper English conventions
7. Roughly 1-3 minutes, filmed
8. Make it interesting. Ask “meaty” questions. Questions must actually pertain to your guest.

Written Script DUE: November 15

### **Part II: Filmed Interview**

Your task will be to film the interview between you and your dinner guest. You will be playing both roles, but only your guest will be seen on camera. Ms. Gondringer will have an example for you at a later date.

Filmed Interview DUE: November 22

## Interview between Ms. Gondringer and her late grandfather, Leo Gondringer.

M: Thanks for taking time out of your busy day to sit down and chat with me, Gramps! I haven't seen you since 2003! How have you been up there in Heaven?

G: Boy, I tell you what. Life up here is great! We got coffee, lots of fried hamburger patties, your ma's veggie soup. Yeah. Life's great!

M: Really? They have all that stuff?

G: Oh ya! Everything!

M: That's awesome! What is your favorite thing to do up there in Heaven?

G: Oh. Me and my coffee buddies always go to the café ever' mornin' for coffee. At the Albany Café they make a great cup of joe. Tom told me this week that his son is all done combining the beans, but hasn't started the corn yet.

M: Yeah. This year has been bad for getting the crop harvested. What was your worst year of farming when you alive?

G: Oh. I'd have to say '88. Worst drought I remember. So dry the jackrabbits were carrying a lunch pail across the field when they were running. Your brother was just barely taller than the corn and that was right before we chopped it. He wasn't even two yet.

M: What did you do?

G: Well, we had to feed the cows so we bought some standing corn from a guy by Rice who had all irrigated land. We paid a pretty penny for it too. We hauled and hauled and hauled boxes. I tell you what. It took us a long time to get all that corn home. But the cows were happy!

M: When you say "we", who was helping you?

G: Oh me. Your old man. Your uncle Jim and your uncle Richard. *(pause, ponder)* I think your ma helped haul corn too. Oh, the neighbor, Othmar, helped too!

M: Was this before or after the partnership between Dad and Jimmy was created?

G: Oh. It was after. Couple years. Your dad and uncle took over the farm in '86. I retired but I was still the boss. Oh, those were the years though. The years after I retired. I didn't have to milk the cows but still got to drive tractor whenever I wanted! Your dad insisted he be the main corn planter though. He always said I planted crooked. And I did.

M: This is all so fascinating to me! Can you give me some more history of the farm? When was it purchased? Who bought it? Stuff like that.

G: Oh sure. Your grandma and I bought the farm in 1951. It had just one barn at the time. We just farmed the home land then. Then in 1957, I started renting my brother, Lenny's, farm. I grew up over there, ya know?

M: I do think I knew that. What is the history of that farm?

G: Oh you're really making me think today! My grandpa, your great-great grandpa, Nicholas Gondringer, came from Luxemburg in 1888 and bought that farm in 1889. My dad, also Nicholas Gondringer, was four-years-old when they came across the pond. Farming back in them years was way different than now. No tractors, only horses. A few cows, couple chickens, hogs, only a few acres of farmland. Then somewhere around 1915, my dad took over the farm. I was born in 1924 and grew up on that farm!

M: So, how did Lenny end up with that farm?

G: Well. He was the youngest boy and wasn't married so he got the farm.

M: Interesting. Was that typical back then?

G: Oh yeah. That was common.

M: Seems like you got shafted!

G: Nah, we didn't look at it that way. Lenny stayed home and took care of dad so he deserved to get the farm.

M: What a nice guy! Now dad owns the farm over there. Can you tell me how that happened?

G: Well, your dad and uncle Jim bought the farm from Lenny in 1991. Then they farmed it together until 2010 and I see now that your dad is farming it with your brother.

M: So you had a pretty good life farming? You enjoyed it?

G: Oh yeah! It was a good life. Lotta work, but a good life.

M: That's good to hear. You know, Dad always complains about the land because it's so hilly and so full of rocks. Why do you think your grandpa stopped here in Central Minnesota?

G: That's easy. He always said it looked like home back in Luxemburg.

M: That makes sense. It seems like you've been keeping track of things down here, but do you know about your newest great-grandson?

G: Well, I mighta lost track a little bit. You know there's been a lot of them.

M: Well, you know how you and Michael always hung out when he was little?

G: Oh ya, him and I were good buds. I kinda miss him. We would always work in the shop, fixing the junk! Sometimes we would fix it so far it was broke for good.

M: He tells stories and he really looked up to you, so much so that he named his son after you. Little Leo Gondringer is winning people's hearts really quickly!

G: (*commence tears*) He named him after me? Now you're going to make me get tears. I gotta go tell Ma. I bet she don't know that either.

M: Ok. Thanks so much for talking with me today! Maybe we can do this again sometime?

G: Ya, that'd be great. I'm never too busy to talk with you.

M: Sounds good! Say "hi" to Grandma for me! We all miss both of you down here!

G: Oh will do.