



# My KENTUCKY Story

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



at&t

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As part of Silas House's visit to your school, the Paris-Bourbon County Public Library wants you to share your family's history with your community! Details are below. Thanks in advance for making this reading of *Eli the Good* extra-special for our library and your school!

In Silas House's *Eli the Good*, Eli struggles to unravel the mysteries behind his father's behavior by eavesdropping and reading his father's letters from Vietnam. Eli comes to understand and connect with his father through this "research," and as inappropriate as his methods may have been, the story Eli discovers allows him to see his family in a new light and understand the struggles they are enduring.

Is there a story in your family that interests you or has affected your life? This person could be a parent or guardian, a grandparent, or a more distant ancestor. Perhaps he or she performed a service, fought in a war, survived a disaster, or dealt with a personal crisis that inspires you.

Remember that no family's struggles are small or unimportant to a community's history. Tell us how your family shaped their community.

1. Select a family member who has a story that interests you. Ask your parents to tell you stories from your family's history, or look at letters or photographs from your family's collection and ask your relatives about what's happening in them. Here are a few example questions you can ask your relatives to help get a conversation going:

- What is your most vivid memory?
- What do you think is your greatest triumph in life?
- What is a moment in life you regret?
- What was the greatest lesson your parents taught you?

2. Research your family member's vital statistics. Help us understand this story's main character in the same way that Silas House helped us understand Eli.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date (If Known): \_\_\_\_\_

Was this person married? Yes      No      If yes, to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Write down one place this person lived (Perhaps the place where your story happens?):

\_\_\_\_\_

If you need help finding this information, you can explore these free resources, available on the library's website at <http://www.bourbonlibrary.org>. Look under Research >> Genealogy. You can also contact our library's genealogist at [info@bourbonlibrary.org](mailto:info@bourbonlibrary.org). Include "Genealogy Question" in your subject line!



Ancestry is available inside the public library only and is the foremost genealogy resource in the world.



ProQuest's African American Heritage database is a resource for researching black history locally and nationally.



HeritageQuest is an alternative to Ancestry you can access from your home via the library's website!

3. Tell us your family member's story! Write the story down as if you were telling it to a friend or classmate. Think about the ultimate theme of the story—is it happy or sad, exciting or more thoughtfully paced? Try to tell your story in a way that shows us why it means so much to you.

- If you get the chance to talk to the person featured in your story, you may want to include details from their telling of it. Does he or she use nicknames, speak in a certain accent, or smile and use hand gestures while telling the story? Include that in your retelling!
- Your story should take about 3-5 minutes to tell (about 400-600 words).

4. The best stories could be featured on a video profiling Silas House's visit to your school. Make your family's history part of your school's history!

- In order for your story to be featured on the Paris-Bourbon County Public Library's digital library, you and your parent will have to sign the following release.
- Thanks in advance for allowing us to share your family's story with our community!

I hereby authorize the Paris-Bourbon County Public Library to re-print my story on its website's digital library, where it will be available to the general public online.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*If you would like to record your family's story in audio or video format, please ask your school librarian or the public library about borrowing professional audiovisual recording equipment you can use to record your family's stories for future generations!\*\*\*\*