“What year were you born, Grandma?” Patrick asked.

Patrick was in second grade and his homework assignment was to interview someone born before 1950 to see what their childhood was like. He had chosen to talk to his Grandma after dinner on Sunday.

“I was born in 1943, during World War 2.” Patrick’s Grandma answered.

“Did you go to school?” Patrick asked.

“Yes, I went to school in Mayville.” Grandma said.

“Did you take the school bus?” Patrick asked with a frown. He didn’t like taking the bus to school in the morning. He thought it was smelly.

“No, dear. When I was a little girl most kids walked to school. Only kids that lived very far away got to ride the bus. I had to walk three blocks to school.”

“Well what did you do after school Grandma?” Patrick asked. “Did you watch TV and play video games?”

Patrick’s Grandma laughed. “Of course not. We didn’t have video games back then. My family didn’t even get a TV until I was twelve.”

“No TV?” Patrick said with a gasp.

Grandma smiled and said, “Those were the good old days.”

Patrick tried to imagine what life would be like without TV, video games, cell phones, and computers. He wondered why grandma called her past “the good old days.”

Patrick looked confused, and he asked, “What did you do for fun?”
“Well, I read a lot of books. After dinner and homework, sometimes we would listen to the radio while we colored pictures or played card games. On the weekends we mostly rode our bikes and played outside with our friends,”

Just then Patrick’s mom called out from the kitchen. It was time for dessert. Patrick quickly put down his pencil and paper. They were having fresh baked apple pie with ice cream! He started toward the kitchen but then stopped and looked at his Grandma.

“Grandma, did you have ice cream when you were a kid?” he asked.

“Yes, of course we did”, Grandma answered with a grin.

Patrick smiled. “Then I think the ‘good old days’ were pretty good too.
Good Old Days
by Nikki Aksamit

1. When was Patrick’s grandma born?
   a. in 1950  b. after 1950
   c. about 40 years ago  d. about 70 years ago

2. When did Patrick’s grandmother get her first television?
   a. in 1943  b. in 1950
   c. in 1955  d. in 1963

   Explain how you figured out the answer to the question above.

   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

3. List four things that Patrick’s grandma did when she came home from school as a child.
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

4. Why didn’t Patrick’s grandma take the bus to school when she was a child?
   a. She could not afford to take the bus.
   b. She lived too close to the school.
   c. She didn’t like taking the bus to school.
   d. Buses had not been invented yet.

5. Why did Patrick's teacher assign the interview project?
   a. She wanted her students to learn when television was invented.
   b. She wanted her students to learn about science.
   c. She wanted to persuade her students to visit their grandparents.
   d. She wanted her students to learn about life long ago.
Good Old Days
by Nikki Aksamit

Fill in the missing letters to make a vocabulary word from the story. Then re-write the complete word on the line.

1. c h ___ l ___ h o o ___
   clue: the time when a person was young
   ___________________________

2. ___ n t e ___ i e w
   clue: to ask questions
   ___________________________

3. d e ___ e r ___
   clue: sweet snack eaten after dinner
   ___________________________

4. ___ a d i ___
   clue: machine for listening to sounds broadcast through the air
   ___________________________

5. g ___ i ___
   clue: a broad smile
   ___________________________

6. f ___ o w ___
   clue: sad face
   ___________________________

7. s ___ e l ___ y
   clue: stinky
   ___________________________

8. g ___ ___ p
   clue: inhale with a mouth open
   ___________________________
Good Old Days
by Nikki Aksamit

1. When was Patrick’s grandma born?  
   a. in 1950  
   b. after 1950  
   c. about 40 years ago  
   d. about 70 years ago

2. When did Patrick’s grandmother get her first television?  
   a. in 1943  
   b. in 1950  
   c. in 1955  
   d. in 1963

   Explain how you figured out the answer to the question above.

   In the story, Patrick’s grandma said her family didn’t have a TV until she was 12. She was born in 1943. Add twelve years. Her family got a TV in 1955.

3. List four things that Patrick’s grandma did when she came home from school as a child.

   Also accept: Ate dinner and did homework. (She also mentiones these things.)
   Do not accept: rode bikes and played outside. (Grandma said she did these things on weekends.)

4. Why didn’t Patrick’s grandma take the bus to school when she was a child?  
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5. Why did Patrick’s teacher assign the interview project?  
   a. She wanted her students to learn when television was invented.  
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Fill in the missing letters to make a vocabulary word from the story. Then re-write the complete word on the line.

1. **childhood**
   - clue: the time when a person was young
   - **childhood**

2. **interview**
   - clue: to ask questions
   - **interview**

3. **dessert**
   - clue: sweet snack eaten after dinner
   - **dessert**

4. **radio**
   - clue: machine for listening to sounds broadcast through the air
   - **radio**

5. **grin**
   - clue: a broad smile
   - **grin**

6. **frown**
   - clue: sad face
   - **frown**

7. **smelly**
   - clue: stinky
   - **smelly**

8. **gasp**
   - clue: inhale with a mouth open
   - **gasp**