

WEBSITE RESOURCE W1.1

My language family tree

Lesley's and Ameena's language family trees give more detail about the kinds of language and literacy experiences they had when they were young. Complete the empty grid and share your language experiences with a few others to see just what variety there can be even in a small group.

Lesley

Grandparents' generation			
	GM	Mother's side GF	'Father's side'
Where were they born? Have they lived anywhere else?	Sheffield, Eyam Eastbourne, Revensey Bay Newbury	Birmingham	North London Grandmother - Dorset
What language(s)/ dialects did they speak?	English (Grandad a bit of Yiddish)		English
What can you remember about them talking to you? Did they tell you stories? Can you remember any family sayings?	Grandmother talked a lot about family history		Grandfather died when I was very small. Didn't see grandmother often. Don't remember any stories
Did they speak differently from you? How?	A few 'old fashioned phrases' e.g. 'She threw her cap over the windmill'		
Parents' generation			
	Mother	Father	
Where were they born? Have they lived anywhere else?	Sheffield, Eyam London Aylesbury, Germany Maidstone, Newbury	Bakewell,	London, Aylesbury, Margate Germany Maidstone, Newbury
What language(s)/ dialects do they speak?	Learnt German while living there. Spoke French. Slight Yorkshire accent when younger		Smattering of German.
Do your parents/carers tell you stories? Can you remember any family sayings?	Used to tell me Peter Rabbit stories. Instilled 'responsibility' - Told to stop fighting with my sister.		Reluctantly talked about personal history. Reminisced more as older. Talked about responsibility of being a parent.
Do they speak differently from you?	More cultural references		
Your generation			
Where were you born? Have you lived anywhere else?	Margate, Germany, Maidstone, Newbury, Israel, Bournemouth, Hull, Ormskirk, Sydney, Palmers Green, Newcastle, Wood Green, Tottenham, Wexstead		
What language(s)/ dialects do you speak?	Smattering of schoolgirl French English		
How do you change the way you speak when you talk: • to friends • with someone you don't know?	Yes! Tend to lapse into 'East London' in more informal situations		

Ameena

Grandparents' generation		
	Mother's side	Father's side
Where were they born? Have they lived anywhere else?	Cape Town, South Africa	Cape Town, South Africa Johannesburg
What language(s)/ dialects did they speak?	Afrikaans primarily A little English both could recite prayers in Arabic Dutch	English primarily (GF) Afrikaans Could read a little Arabic and recite prayers in Arabic
What can you remember about them talking to you? Did they tell you stories? Can you remember any family sayings?	Never met my maternal grandmother. Vague memories of my grandfather. Only spoke Afrikaans and would insist that we greeted loudly at the door as we entered the house so he could hear from his room!	Never met my paternal grandfather. My gran spoke a lot about the family and would share stories about my Dad when he was younger, and about my grandfather who died when my Dad was 13. Did not often read stories to me, but preferred to tell me stories and loved to make things rhyme! She wrote letters and cards to me regularly from South Africa.
Did they speak differently from you? How?	I spoke no Afrikaans as a child, and to my knowledge my grandfather spoke very little English.	My gran spoke English with a strong South African accent and would slip into Afrikaans occasionally. She loved to make up rhymes and poems when she was feeling particularly expressive!
Parents' generation		
	Mother	Father
Where were they born? Have they lived anywhere else?	Born in Cape Town, South Africa Moved to England in 1978 – Leicester, Tottenham, South Bucks, Slough	Born in Johannesburg, South Africa Moved to England in 1978 – Leicester, Tottenham, South Bucks, Slough
What language(s)/ dialects do they speak?	Afrikaans and English	English and Afrikaans

<p>Do your parents/ carers tell you stories? Can you remember any family sayings?</p>	<p>My Mum would tell us family stories and occasionally South African fairy tales. She did not read to us but had several catchphrases or sayings, many of which were very witty. I found them very amusing as a child.</p>	<p>Several – my Dad used to make up stories sometimes featuring myself and my sister. He would also read to us, but never from mainstream children’s books – these were often Sufi tales, or stories about Islamic history. Dad had also illustrated a few folktales from Central and East Asia, and often re-told those stories to us.</p>
<p>Do they speak differently from you?</p>	<p>Has a South African accent. Pronounces the ‘r’ sound emphatically with a distinct roll. Slips into Afrikaans often.</p>	<p>Has a South African accent.</p>
<p>Both parents made a decision to not teach us Afrikaans at home, therefore English was the main language spoken.</p>		
<p>Your generation</p>		
<p>Where were you born? Have you lived anywhere else?</p>	<p>Born in Buckinghamshire, UK. At 22 I moved to Canada for a year, and at 23 lived in Cape Town for six years.</p>	
<p>What language(s)/ dialects do you speak?</p>	<p>English A little Afrikaans – picked up mostly when I lived in South Africa Intermediate Spanish – learned in school and continued at university A few Arabic phrases. I can also read Arabic but do not speak it.</p>	
<p>How do you change the way you speak when you talk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to friends • with someone you don’t know? 	<p>The way I talk to friends depends on which friends I am speaking to! With Muslim friends I will use Arabic phrases we all understand such as: <i>inshaAllah</i> (God willing) <i>mashaAllah</i> (God has wished it) etc. The use of these phrases is very ‘natural’ to me and I don’t have to think about them.</p> <p>With all my friends I’m much more informal – I have been told that I have a slight South African twang when I’m especially excited or angry!</p> <p>With people I don’t know, I am more measured in speech and take time to think about what I want to say so that it sounds ‘right’. Occasionally I worry that I might slip in an <i>inshaAllah</i> when talking about something that may happen in the future when speaking at work or to people I should be more formal with!</p>	

My Language Family Tree

If you have been brought up by someone else than your parents, just cross out Mother and Father and put in the names you use for your carers.

Grandparents' generation		
	Mother's side	Father's side
Where were they born? Have they lived anywhere else?		
What language(s)/ dialects did they speak?		
What can you remember about them talking to you? Did they tell you stories? Can you remember any family sayings?		
Did they speak differently from you? How?		
Parents' generation		
	Mother	Father
Where were they born? Have they lived anywhere else?		
What language(s)/ dialects do they speak?		
Do your parents/carers tell you stories? Can you remember any family sayings?		
Do they speak differently from you?		
Your generation		
Where were you born? Have you lived anywhere else?		
What language(s)/ dialects do you speak?		
How do you change the way you speak when you talk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to friends • with someone you don't know? 		