

Sample Letter to Grandchildren

Dear One,

It is my intention that you will read this letter when I am gone. Know that you were loved by me, and are loved by many others. You are a cherished member of our family.

There are many reminders of a life that are left behind after we die but I wanted to write to you specifically about some of the trusts I have created for my descendants. These trusts are very long in duration and will last for generations. You are a beneficiary of these trusts and that you are reading this letter means that your parents, or the trustees, believe that you are ready to understand the importance of the trusts. I leave it to the professionals to share the legal details and the investment summaries. However, I wanted to speak to you directly about my hopes for your life, this legacy and the use of these trusts.

Our family has been blessed by extraordinary fortune and opportunity. We were able to use this opportunity to build a business that has created a substantial legacy to our family. Rather than spend this in my lifetime on my own desires, I have put money aside into trusts for our family, in hopes that this legacy would continue and would benefit generations to come. You are a beneficiary of this legacy, some of these trusts were funded before you were born. These funds were hard earned, and are not to be squandered idly or used to support a life of sloth. Use these funds well and try to preserve them for your own descendants. When anything is distributed from the trust to you, either in the discretion of the trustees, or by the terms of the trust, I hope you will seek the advice and counsel of your family and trusted advisors as to the appropriate actions.

It is hard to put into mere words all of the wishes I have for you and hopes for what your life may hold.

I believe that money brings responsibility. You are a beneficiary and a shareholder, in a company and a family that has a long and storied history. It is your responsibility to learn about investing, about financial

matters, to manage your money and to oversee the Trustees who will manage assets on your behalf. You need to also understand the Company and how it works. This Company was built by our family and through dedication of many family members, who worked to build the Company, and continue to care for the family through the family council and the private trust company. You will need to take your place in this family and devote time and energy to the continuation of its business.

These funds are here to provide you with opportunities, but not to have a life squandered. I know the world you live in will be very different than mine but I hope you will focus on seizing every opportunity – if you choose to work in the home, raising a family, make it your sole focus and best legacy. If you choose to work outside the home, these funds may help you reach farther and take greater risks. It is your responsibility to continue to grow and shepherd these funds for your own generations and I would encourage you to leave a similar letter of wishes and hopes for your grandchildren, and to build this legacy even further.

I believe that history is important; I hope that you will learn about our family history and realize that these stories were of real people, who lived, breathed, laughed, loved, cried and smiled just as you do. They were not less intelligent because of the time in which they lived, or the area and lives that they lived, nor were they superior because of the perhaps simple choices they had to make. To each of them, as to me, the choices and experiences of our lives were rich indeed. Yours will be as well and you will face burdens and decisions I cannot fathom but know that you are from a strong family and have the capability to achieve anything you desire.

I believe in family and home. I hope that you will be blessed with both throughout your life. Please know that I support you in any decision you make as to how you create your family and home but hope that you will accept as well the responsibility of bringing life into this world or joining your life with another person's. Marriage or any relationship is fraught with difficulty and requires constant commitment. Parenting is a daily challenge but the rewards are tremendous. Love generously and forgive daily.

I believe in friendships and hope that you will find them wherever you go. Try to be open in how you approach people and remember that everyone has something to offer you. Also, remember that some people are just not worth the time and effort required. Try to stay away from those who will keep you from becoming the person you want to be.

I believe in travel and hope that you will use some of the funds that have been left to you to explore the world. Even small trips can yield great insights but to see the world, and to learn more about your fellow man, will help you in ways you cannot imagine.

I believe in knowledge and hope that you will pursue an education and degrees to give you a career you can always rely on. It is important in life to have the ability to earn a living and to provide for your family, in case this burden should ever fall to you alone.

I believe that education is life-long and that you will continue to learn and grow.

I believe in God and hope that you will always have faith, however you define it, in your life.

With love,