

This is a play for a child and a parent.
You'll need a piece of paper, a pen, and another person.

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This play is a part of Starters by JETco.
Bear in mind that it doesn't tell you what to do or when or how to do it.
You'll have to decide that for yourself.

To find more Starters, visit jet-co.org/starters.

A
This is a play for a child and a parent.

B
Well, we should start by discussing the elephant in the room.

A
She has a name.

B
I know that.

A
I brought you here to talk about something important.

B
What's the something?

A
Remember the way we used to live?

B
I do.

A
I won't describe it then.

B
And what of it?

A
I thought about it the other day. I miss it.

B
I miss it as well.

A
What do you miss about it?

B
I miss the way conversations used to have an end.

A
They still do now. We end conversations every day.

B
Not in the same way. There were answers in sight, and we'd reach them.

A
I used to ask different questions.

B
I used to ask different questions.

A
I miss that.

B
I miss the way time used to pass.

A
Slowly?

B
Quickly.

A
I miss that, too. It's different for me.

B
What do you miss about the way we used to live?

A
The pencil sharpener.

B
We still have it.

A
We don't use it.

B
We don't need to.

A
I miss needing to. I miss the softness of a dull pencil and the danger of a sharp one. When I would write by hand, my lines would go from thin to fat very slowly and then become thin again. It was infuriating and precarious.

B
Would you want to write something down? I have this paper for you.

A
Do you have a pen?

B
No.

A
I'll use mine.

B
Is that your favorite pen?

A
No. It's just the one I have.

B
What will you write?

A
You'll see.

B
I enjoy your handwriting. It's changed. It used to be simpler.

A
I used to worry a lot about my handwriting. Everyone did.

B
I never worried.

A
I miss the worrying.

B
Why?

A
It felt like a cradle.

B
Can I read what you've written?

A
I don't know. Can you?

B
May I?

A
You may.

B
It's lovely.

A
I want to say this next one right: I love you.

B
I love you.

A
You said it differently than I did.

B
Yes.

A
Differently than you used to.

B
Yes.

A
Did I?

B
Yes.

A
Was I saying it wrong?

B
No.

A
Were you?

B
Sometimes.

A
When?

B
I can't remember.

A
Then how do you know?

B
The odds are in my favor on this one.

A
“May the odds be ever in your favor.”

B
I never read that book. Or saw that movie.

A
Neither did I.

B
Ask me another question.

A
Will you answer it?

B
Is that your question?

A
Maybe. Would you answer another?

B
I would. Ask me another.