

WRITING A *Eulogy*

A GENTLE GUIDE FROM KEITH LOGUE & SONS

Losing someone you love is never easy, and finding the right words can feel overwhelming.

This guide is designed to help you craft a eulogy that is honest, warm, and uniquely theirs—a tribute that reflects the stories, values and moments that mattered most.

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What Is A Eulogy, & Why It Matters...

A eulogy is a short, heartfelt reflection on a person's life. It usually weaves together milestones, relationships and personal stories to help family and friends remember, grieve, and celebrate. Sometimes a family member or friend speaks; other times a celebrant or one of our team can read your words on your behalf. There's no "right" way—only what feels authentic and respectful for your loved one and for you.



Writing in a time of loss can feel daunting. This guide offers simple structure, practical tips, and thoughtful prompts so you can craft a tribute that sounds like you and reflects who they truly were.

Let's begin...



Where To Begin...

Start with what you know. Think about the role your loved one played in your life and the qualities people admired. You don't need exact dates or a strict timeline—broad strokes are enough.

Choose a tone. Gentle, grateful, occasionally light—whatever best reflects the person. Some families welcome a smile through tears; others prefer a quieter, reflective mood. Either is appropriate.

Gather a few voices. Ask one or two people to share a favourite memory or detail. A sentence or short anecdote can add warmth and balance.



A Simple Outline That Works



OPENING & RELATIONSHIP

Introduce yourself and how you knew your loved one. Share a line that sets the tone—a favourite saying of theirs, a brief quote, or a simple truth about who they were.



LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Offer a concise sketch: where they grew up, key relationships, family, meaningful places, studies or work, service, and the moments they were most proud of.



CHARACTER & STORIES

Bring them to life with one or two short anecdotes that show their values, quirks, humour, generosity, resilience, or passions. Stories help listeners see the person you knew.



IMPACT & LEGACY

Describe how they shaped the people around them—what they taught, the care they gave, the example they set.



FAREWELL

Close with gratitude, a blessing, a poem or lyric they loved, or a final message you feel they'd want heard.

Helpful Tips For Writing & Delivering

- Keep it concise. Aim for about 5–10 minutes (roughly 700–1,200 words). Edit to your voice; fewer, clearer stories are often more powerful.
- Prepare early. Draft, read it aloud, refine. Print your speech in larger type and double-space so it's easy to follow.
- Be kind to yourself. Emotions may surge. Pause, breathe, sip water. It's okay to gather yourself.
- Nominate a backup. Ask a family member, celebrant, or our team to be ready to continue if needed.
- Use humour carefully. Light moments can comfort—but avoid anything that might embarrass or exclude. Keep the person's dignity at the centre.
- Respect the room. Remember who may be present: children, elders, colleagues, lifelong friends. Choose stories that honour everyone's memories.



Story Prompts – Pick A Few That Fit

Choose 6–10 prompts that feel true. You don't need to answer everything...

Who They Were

- If you had five words to describe them, what would they be—and why?
- What little habits or quirks made them unmistakably them?
- A moment that captures their character (kindness, courage, humour, patience).

Family & Foundations

- Family background—heritage, siblings, important traditions.
- The roles they loved most (partner, parent, grandparent, friend, mentor).
- A favourite family celebration or ritual—and what made it special.

Places, Learning & Work

- Neighbourhoods or towns that shaped them; a home they cherished.
- Schools, training, or a mentor who influenced them.
- Work they enjoyed (and why), proud achievements, or community service.

Passions & Pastimes

- Hobbies, crafts, or collections; clubs, groups, or teams they belonged to.
- Music, books, films or shows they returned to again and again.
- Sport they followed or played; a team they loved—wins, losses, and loyal rituals.

Travel & Favourite Things

- A beloved holiday spot, garden seat, café table, or fishing rock.
- A tune they hummed, a recipe they perfected, a Friday routine.
- A gift they gave you—or a small kindness you'll never forget.

Values, Beliefs & Wisdom

- A saying they lived by; a philosophy that guided them.
- Faith or spiritual practices that comforted or grounded them.
- Lessons they taught—by words or example—that you carry forward.

Final Reflections

- How they showed love—in quiet moments and everyday acts.
- The message they'd want heard today.
- What you hope people remember most about them.



Bringing It Together:

Use this as a scaffold—swap in the details and memories that feel right for your family.

1

Opening

“I’m Sam, Pat’s daughter. Today I want to share three things Dad taught us about showing up.”

2

Life Highlights

“Born in Lismore, big brother to two, apprentice sparkie turned small-business owner, and happily married to Jo for 42 years.”

3

Story One

“Every Saturday, rain or shine, Dad...”

4

Story Two

“When things were hard, he’d say...”

5

Impact

“Because of him, our home felt...”

6

Farewell

“Thank you, Dad, for... We’ll carry your laugh and your steadiness with us.”

On The Day *Checklist*

- ☐ Print 2–3 copies of your eulogy (large font).
- ☐ Highlight key words/pauses; mark where to breathe.
- ☐ Bring tissues and water; silence your phone.
- ☐ Confirm a backup reader.
- ☐ Check the microphone with the celebrant or our team.
- ☐ Take your time—everyone is with you.



If writing or speaking feels too much, Keith Logue & Sons can help shape your thoughts into a meaningful tribute, or read it for you. Your funeral arranger can guide you through options and provide additional resources.