

**Topic: Life Cycle**

**Let's get started . . .** what are some of the most important events in people's lives?

**Story:** A woman is born in 1969. She is the oldest of 5 children. Her mother dies when she is 15. She marries a businessman and has two kids. In 1990, she and her husband move to the United States and start a business. The business is successful. Then, in 1994, her husband is diagnosed with a fast-growing cancer. He lives another six months and then dies. The woman must decide - "Do I and my children stay in the United States or go back to my home country with my father and siblings?"



**. In pairs for 10 minutes, ask and answer these questions:**

What are the most important events in the woman's life? Is your life similar or different? Explain. What questions would you like to ask the woman? What advice would you give her?

**Share your partner's answers with the group.**



Make a timeline of your life - what are important events in your life? Write one word about the events *above* the timeline; write the month and year *below* the event on the timeline.

Birth							Going to TalkTime
							March 2009

(If you have a Picture Dictionary available, look at the pages on "Life Events".)

**Interview** 3 people about their timelines. 1) Write each person's name in the left column. 2) Ask, "What are important events in your life?" 3) Write a word or two about just three of each person's important life events.

Name	Event #1	Event #2	Event #3

**Discussion Questions** - talk in pairs or small groups. Change groups from time to time. Describe in detail one or more of the most important events in your life. What happened? When did it happen? Who was with you? Where were you? Why was it important? How does it affect you now?

In your culture, do you have ceremonies or rituals to mark important life events? What traditions do you have around important life events? Do these traditions involve . . .

- special clothing?
- special food?
- money or gifts?
- documents or writing?
- special people?

What are some of the life events or changes that may happen as you get older? What events will you like? What events will you dislike? What events worry you? Why?

What life changes were easier in your home country? What life changes were harder in your home country?

Do people treat you differently as you get older? Explain.

**Challenge Questions:** Does human life have seasons like spring, summer, fall and winter? Explain. Do you think human life is more like a circle or a line?

**New vocabulary:** cycle, dies, businessman, move, start, diagnosed, fast-growing, timeline, in detail, affect, ceremonies, rituals, mark, traditions, documents, treat, must, decide

**Keep talking about it this week:** Ask friends about one important life event. . Write down their answers and be ready to share with the group at the next TalkTime.

**More on life events and stress:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holmes\\_and\\_Rahe\\_stress\\_scale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holmes_and_Rahe_stress_scale)