

# design your story

Great tips and fantastic ideas for telling older, pre-scrapbooking era stories. BY CATHY ZIELSKE

*I haven't been a scrapbooker for all my life.* I'm guessing that many of you, like me, have stories that have never found their way into your albums. In this issue, I'll share a few ideas for mining the rich detail of our pre-scrapbooking lives and how you can incorporate older stories into your present-day memory keeping.



## layout 1

### WHAT CAN YOU RECALL?

**I met my husband 14 years before I made my first scrapbook page,** and I recently realized how few stories I've documented from our early years together—especially from the week that I first met him.

The photo on this layout is the first one I ever took of him and seeing it brings back such sweet and random memories from that very first week we met. Spend some time looking at an older photo and try to recall the little details. You don't have to remember everything to document a special story!

**STORY TIP: Save the date.** When creating a layout with an older photo, be sure to include the date of the photo and the date of the journaling. Showing that the journaling is reflecting on a story from days gone by is a wonderful way to add depth to the story.

### meeting dan

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: Lawn Fawn, Neenah; PATTERNED PAPER, STICKERS: Close To My Heart; DIE CUT LETTERS: Lawn Fawn; ENAMEL DOTS: Close To My Heart, Doodlebug Design; DIE CUT SHAPE: Stampin' Up; CORNER PUNCH: We R Memory Keepers; FONT: Avenir; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L

### TYPOGRAPHY TIP: Pair two contrasting type styles together.

By combining a script font with an all caps font, I created a title with lots of contrast. Contrasting type styles engage the eye and add visual interest to any design.

## layout 2

### SURPRISE YOURSELF

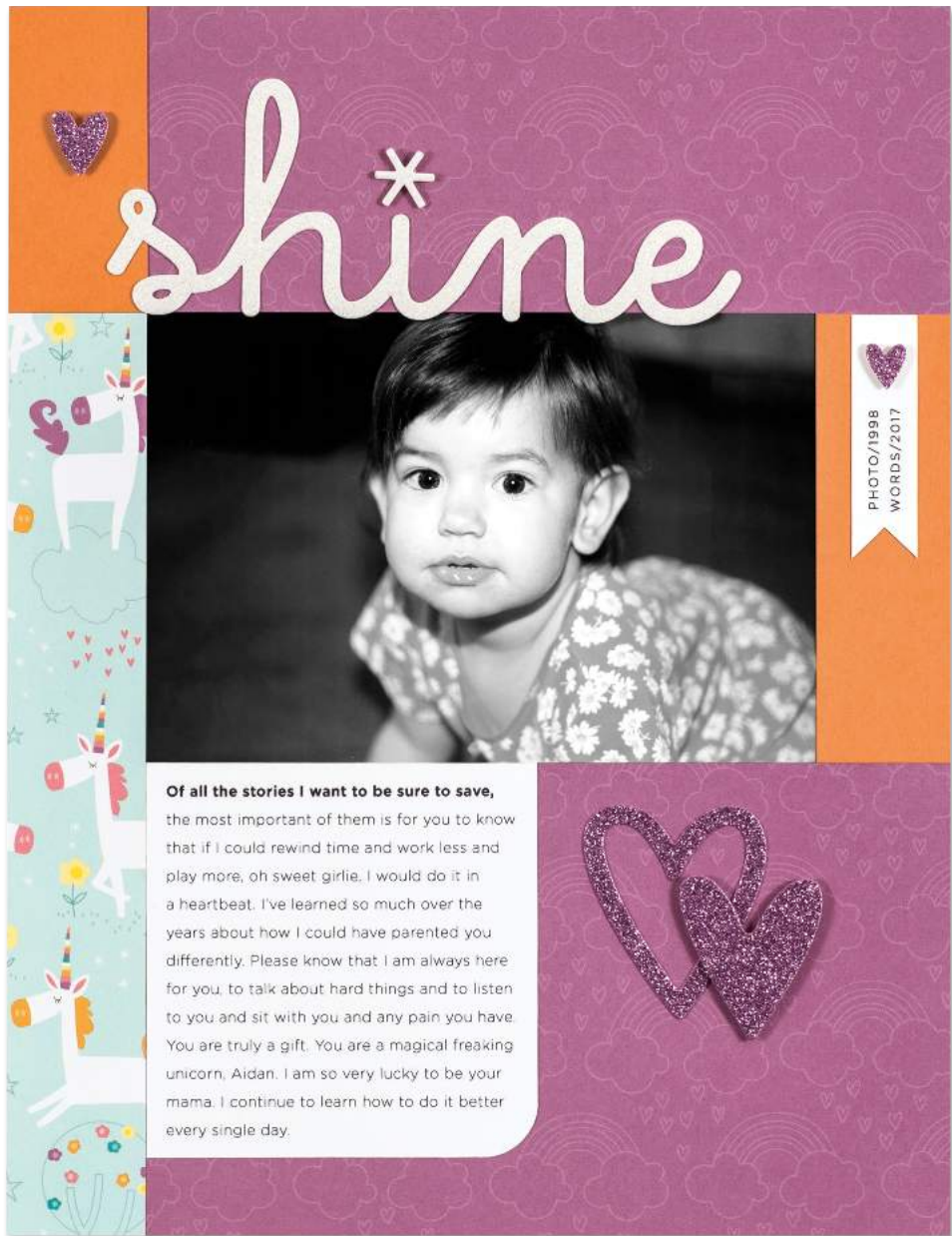
The photo on this layout is one of my favourite shots of my daughter. She was two years old at the time, and as I set out to create a page about her at that time, I felt a rush of emotion that sent me in a completely different journaling direction. I simply went with it.

Sometimes an older photo can surprise you with unexpected feelings. It's okay to let yourself be vulnerable, especially as you make connections to where you are today with the benefit of hindsight.

As a middle-aged mama, I look back at the parent I was and acknowledge that I'm much better at it today, but I also want my children to know that I honour their experience, too.

### STORY TIP: Be vulnerable.

Don't be afraid to share tender, honest stories. Life is such a wonderful, complex blend of positive, negative, and everything in between. Stories like this belong in our albums.



Of all the stories I want to be sure to save, the most important of them is for you to know that if I could rewind time and work less and play more, oh sweet girlie, I would do it in a heartbeat. I've learned so much over the years about how I could have parented you differently. Please know that I am always here for you, to talk about hard things and to listen to you and sit with you and any pain you have. You are truly a gift. You are a magical freaking unicorn, Aidan. I am so very lucky to be your mama. I continue to learn how to do it better every single day.

PHOTO/1998  
WORDS/2017

## shine

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: Lawn Fawn, Neenah; PATTERNED PAPER, STICKERS: Close To My Heart; FONT: Gotham; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L

See more of Cathy's pages and stories at [cathyzielske.com](http://cathyzielske.com)



Learn how to use Cathy's handy templates to create your very own 6 x 4 mini album.

[bit.ly/SCT\\_Fall17BonusVideo](http://bit.ly/SCT_Fall17BonusVideo)

## MORE WAYS TO SAVE OLDER STORIES

- 1 Ask someone else.** You might be surprised what your significant other, parent, or friend recalls when seeing an older photo. Include those details on your page.
- 2 Add facts from the year in question.** Go online to discover trends from the year your photo was taken. Use those details on your page for a more general snapshot of the times.
- 3 Make a mini album.** Combine your older photos with short blurbs in a mini album format. Don't over think it! Just one or two details will do.



Download Cathy's free templates so you can use them to create a simple 6 x 4 album documenting your older photos, too. [scrapbookandcards.com/bonus-files](http://scrapbookandcards.com/bonus-files)