Fowler, C. (2009). Motives for sibling communication across the lifespan. Communication Quarterly, 57(1). 51-66. Abstract from Author: “The sibling bond has the distinction of being the most enduring and egalitarian connection of all family relationships. Unfortunately, although siblings play an important role in one another's lives, relatively little is known about the communication that characterizes sibling relationships. This study investigated whether the interpersonal communication motives of siblings vary as a function of age or gender. Survey data was provided by 299 respondents aged 18 to 34, 35 to 49, 50 to 64, and 65+. There were significant differences by both age and gender for several of the communication motives.”

In this first essay we learn of the important roles that siblings play throughout our lives and how siblings are innately and ideally of the essence for our well being (Fowler, C. (2009)).

Throughout this study they found some very interesting an insightful thoughts: Sibling Relationships Across the life span: Here we are very enlightened with the ideal that siblings are very much innately intertwined (even if they are not close at the time) in times of necessary need, such as, a parent that passes away, or whatever the circumstance maybe it is important to note that the ties of the growing age of a life that has been lived in the elderly age is the most important time in which siblings must rely on each other (Fowler, C. (2009)).

It is also something of intrigue that within the realms of this essay we learn that there are three district ways in which siblings present their interpersonal communications; whereupon, they are: affection, inclusion, and control. These three ideal of communication are some of the
most important within the walls of communication with siblings. Where on we learn that these all break down to where we need to feel appreciated and want to tie appreciation. Or maybe it be a way in which we want to reduce the isolating feeling of loneliness (Graham, Barbato, & Perse, 1993).

Sibling relationships are by the longest lasting relationships that anyone human being can have and this has been studied in many cultures though out the world. We also learn that both men and women communicate so differently at times. Where upon we learn that men tend to be more of a logical/rational based idealist in the realms of communication effectively in their minds eye - where as women are based more on the pathos/emotional side of the communication wall of ownership (p. 279). Aka. women know how to communicate better, it’s science. But than again science isn’t full proof.

When it comes to siblings I feel that we tend to find a way to be both rational and emotional with a good balance intact; at least when it comes to me and my siblings. The findings of this study/essay taught us that siblings communicate with each other out of the pure want and desire to communicate to each other, not because they feel obligated to do so. Which is something we all can treasure.

Kellas, J. K. (2005). Family ties: Communicating identity through jointly told family stories. [Article]. Communication Monographs, 72(4), 365-389. Abstract from author: “Family stories work to construct family identity. Little research, however, has examined storytelling in families. This study examined storytelling content and process to assess the extent to which families jointly integrated or fragmented a shared sense of identity and how these discursive practices relate to family qualities. Results of a study involving 58
family triads indicate relationships between story theme (e.g., accomplishment vs. stress),
person referencing practices (e.g., we-ness vs. separateness), and interactional storytelling
behaviors (e.g., engagement, turn-taking). Moreover, story framing, perspective-taking,
statements about selves-in-the-family, and identifying as a “storytelling family” emerged
consistently as positive predictors of family satisfaction and functioning. The results offer
a portrait of how families communicate identity and functioning in joint storytelling
interactions and further position storytelling as a communication phenomenon worthy of
consideration.”

Story telling is such an interlace part of who we are and identify with (Kellas J.K. (2005).
Within the larger set of stories that are told to us from generation to generation we learn that we
come a culture in of itself within the walls of the family unit and structure which is ideally so
right and true in my eyes looking back on my family life and where I am now in my life today.

Throughout this essay we learn that story telling is such an important part of what we
wish to become and in the end what we want to remembered as. Story telling is oft times one of
the most beneficial ways to learn to communicate with each other within the realms of the family
unit of the home.

One thing in particular that I learned from this is an idealistic enity of communication
which is: Shared joint storytelling: this is the process by which family members construct stories
in interaction “collaboratively by assigning plot, character, and setting in a way that helps them
make sense of and give meaning to the event(s) and [to their relationships]” (Koenig, 2002, p. 12).
This something that I (personally) can relate in terms of communication with my family. We
always used to make of stories and outline plots in order to make life a little easier in the
Knudsen home. It was such great fun and ultimately I believe what led me to my desire to be a published writer someday.

Story telling is a way in which families are almost obligated in a way to communicate with each other, but instead of obligation, it is more of a way to have a fun time with those you love. That is how history is passed on through generations. It is how we learn from the past. It is all through story telling within the confines of the home.

What I learned from these two articles is that communication is such an intricate part to family life and structure and that without it the family will fall. First and for most we learn of how sibling love/communication is the strongest out there even when the siblings aren’t that close at all, whether in age or emotional speaking. Many things will always bring siblings back together in some regard. Which I found to be very interesting.

I particularly enjoyed the second article more for it was a bit more relatable Story telling is one of the best ways to communicate with each other, even outside the family household - it also a great thing to do with friends and acquaintances. These two articles demonstrated some of the best ways to improve ones communication in the family unit and I feel that we should take what we have learned here and apply it in our lives. Both are very interesting and right on point in my eyes.
Work Cited


• Koenig, 2002, p. 12

• p. 279