

The ABCs (The Absolute Best Characteristics) of Ida-Rose

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Authoritative

Mom expected respect. She knew she was right. She usually was! She expected that I would do my chores and do them well. She could win a debate even if she was wrong. When I was a child she was not my friend, she was my parent.

Beautiful

Even as a young child, I thought my mother was beautiful. She didn't spend much time in front of a mirror, but always looked nice. As a young woman and as a young mother she was stunning. Dad was lucky to "land her."

Caring

If something needed to be done to help someone, Mom did it. She didn't need other people to notice what she did for others. She provided years of care-giving for Grandpa Langford and Grandpa Hall in our home when they were elderly.

Daring

Mom had this fixed notion in her head that she could do just about anything. She could design and landscape a house, refurnish or fix a couch, piano, chair or dress. She could learn a language, publish a book, raise orchids, start a business, teach a class, serve a mission and fight cancer.

Enthusiastic

No one ever accused Mom of being shy. Her energetic enthusiasm for life dragged us all through five a.m. music practices, dance lessons, family road trips and reunions. She could organize a crowd and make a party lively.

Genealogist

She loved the hunt. She loved her ancestors. Mom wanted to find them, know their stories and connect the past with the present. She had a good mind for this. At a time when genealogical lines were found in courthouses and cemeteries, she was at the forefront in finding information. She courageously dragged us all along with her.

Humorous

Mother laughed. Even when she was really sick she still found things to laugh about. I can remember laughing with her until the tears ran down our faces. I wish I could hear her laugh again.

Ingenious

She could find a creative use for just about anything. Mom once turned a shower curtain into a top skirt for a formal I wore to Homecoming. Old wool suits became beautiful braided rugs. She knew how to stretch a dollar. She had ingenious discipline ideas we all remember. One plan involved catch-all boxes and buy-back plans for clothes left on the floor.

Joyful

Mom knew how to have a good time. Birthday parties were well-planned FUN! Holidays meant new hand-made dresses and treats and homemade decorations. She taught us all kinds of card games (as long as no face cards were involved), board games and guessing games. We sang together, played together and worked together, and we had fun doing it!

Knowledgeable

She never finished her college degree, but had an insatiable desire to learn. She wanted to learn new things. She shared the things she learned. It was my mother, not my school teacher who taught me to diagram a sentence.

Lucky

I often heard her say that she felt lucky. She felt lucky her children all grew to adulthood. She felt lucky all of them had temple marriages. I think Mom made her own luck. She worked hard and then trusted the Lord to supply her needs.

Musical

Mom had a strong, tuneful alto voice. She taught us all to read music, sing parts, and keep time. The amount of effort she put into her children's musical training is legendary. We sang together and played instrumental music together for Church.

Newsy

She enjoyed talking so much that Dad usually couldn't get a word in edgewise. She wrote faithfully every week to five children who served missions. She spent years keeping the Hallmanack circulating so the married families could keep in touch.

Optimistic

Problems were just challenges to be dealt with and overcome. She could always find the good in people, make the most of a bad deal and find hope in the face of difficulty. I loved her can-do, the glass-is-more-than-half-full attitude.

Practical

She believed in making do, using up and doing without. If Mom couldn't do it, or use it, she'd find somebody who could and would. Buying clothing at the department store was something out of the ordinary. Trips to the grocery store were once a week events. Milk was mixed. Bread was made at home. Clothes were handed down. Jobs were done.

Quick

Nobody could do a batch of dishes or make a loaf of bread or a batch of cookies faster than Mom.

Reader

Voracious is the only word for it! She read everything from every kind of genre. She loved Mysteries. She taught me to love Agatha Christie and Dick Francis. She and Dad read the scriptures with us at the breakfast table every day. She gave me good books to read. Mom took us to the library regularly. She could tell a good story. She memorized poetry and stories to recite. At Christmas, all the grandchildren heard her recite How Stole the Grinch Christmas from memory.

Spiritual

Mom lived her religion in a daily, no-nonsense kind of way. It was a part of the fabric of her life. I never doubted in any way her testimony of the Gospel. She lived the things she believed. She served willing and capably in her Church callings.

Teacher

She was especially good with boys. Many Blazer Boys could tell you about water fights, homemade cakes and salt water taffy rewards for good behavior and goals met. She taught me to sew, cook, clean, work hard and love life.

Unforgettable

I think about Mom every day. Nobody will ever love me as much or in the same way as she did.

Vigorous

When she came to help me with my new babies she not only cooked, rocked and read stories; she wall-papered, painted, refinished, baked, sewed, dipped chocolates, baked bread and potty trained my kids. She was tireless!

Wise

Mom knew that rearing responsible children involved effort and example. She was not an absent parent. She was fully engaged in seeing that all of us had ample opportunity to excel. The decisions I make in my own life often revolve around what I think Mom might have done in the same situation.

eXcellence

Mom excelled in her ability to use the gifts God gave her. She never buried her talents, but gave them away freely for our benefit. She taught us to do more than the norm. She expected that we would do our best.

Yupik

The literal translation of this Alaskan word is Authentic Person. Mother was an AUTHENTIC PERSON. There was never anything about her that was superficial or fake. Mom was the real deal!

Zippy

Brisk and snappy, Mom was definitely zippy! I miss her infectious laugh, quick wit, generous help and happy attitude.

