

# Transcript

Wynne Leon

Welcome to the sharing the heart of the Matter podcast. We celebrate the storyteller in us all.

Wynne Leon

I'm Wynne Leon and in this episode, Vicki Atkinson and I are with my 9 year old daughter Miss O. Miss O was given a fourth grade class assignment to write about a prospective change when she came home with this short essay about my dad, I was stunned. She reads the essay to us and tells us what inspired her. Clearly I have a personal interest in this, but at a bigger level, it's fascinating to see what kids take away from family stories. Vicki asks about how Miss O finds her voice and is so good at teasing out why it's so meaningful to hear it from her perspective. When we dig in to what Miss O knows about her grandfather, who she never met, it's both interesting and endearing to see the. She's gleaned of my dad. It's also really funny to see the many ways. They are alike. Miss O talks about what she is doing next, mainly making a slime channel on YouTube Kids. As Miss O says, she is passionate about slime and she wants to share her creations. Fortunately for all of us, we have boundaries. The slime. To stay in the rec room, and she's only showing her hands. We're confident you'll love the scenic and beautiful places we explore as we talk about family stories. We know you'll love it. Hi miss.

Miss O

So hello, how you doing, Mom?

Wynne Leon

Good. How you doing, Vicki?

Vicki Atkinson

I am so good. Love seeing? I get to see your mom all the time, but getting to see both of you at. Time or.

Miss O

3rd podcast. With these wonderful people so happy.

Wynne Leon

We're so happy that you came back on. You so much for doing this, sweetie.

Speaker

No.

Wynne Leon

You know, it's interesting that this podcast is gonna air 2 days before bumpas birthday when he would have been he'd be 90 if he was alive, so. Um, it's just kind of a nice coincidence.

Speaker 2

Wow.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, a nice coincidence. And you know you've. So you've previously shared some of your fiction writing with us.

Miss O

Yes, I have. Quite a long time ago.

Wynne Leon

But now you've written it was that was, well, the third grade. Mean now you've moved on.

Speaker

I.

Miss O

Thought Greg.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.

Miss O

Growing.

Wynne Leon

You growing up every day just amaze me. You just amaze me, sweetie. But you. So you wrote this really cool autobiographical piece. About your grandfather. Miss factor, can you read that for us?

Miss O

My pleasure, of course. With this factor by me missile, I miss him. Oh, I miss him, all right. But this is how I changed my perspective. Hi, I'm miso. And the. About my grandpa bumpa is what my family and I call him. He was the nicest man who ever lived. At least that's what I was told. That's what I believe too. Bumpa died. The date for my mom was pregnant with me. I was so close to meeting him. So close. As I've grown up and taken more consideration that is gone. I've grown to be more and more devastated. Time I think of him leaving, I start crying. What I've learned. The course of a few years, how to be happier about it. Normally I ask my mom or someone near me who knew him to tell me a story about him, or I could ask him from up in heaven. To tell me a new story or remind me of a story I've already been told. Another way I make myself happier while I am with friends or my little brother. I tell them a story about him. He's helped so much. So much bubble was a pastor at Belpres. That's why every time I go there, somebody says something to me that has to do with him. I've got to do so many fun things at Bell Press. Most of those things have to do with performing, which I am totally 100% fine with. We perform in many different places in the church, but the place

we perform the most in is a big room with the stage and quite a bit of chairs that are playing. Are on stage. And we perform right in front of the stage. We do hand motions to the songs that the people are people with instruments are playing on the stage anyways, back to bumpa. Also every time I do perform when I look towards the back of the room. I see bumpa cheering. Hard for me. Always. This is how I've grown to be happier about it. This is what I think, no matter if I'm happy, I'm sad, angry or any emotion. I know I can count on bumpa to be there for me. Everybody has their hard times in life, but if you listen to what I am about to say, you might find a way in, not out in. Yes, in. If you just focus on the bad times, the good times will disappear. It might be hard to find the good times again, but they are always there always. I promise Miss O.

Vicki Atkinson

Applause. Cheers.

Wynne Leon

Good. No good. And landing was such a wise note.

Vicki Atkinson

Oh my.

Miss O

Yeah, I like to end on. If I'm writing something about this, I'd like to end on something like that. Always a good.

Vicki Atkinson

I was just gonna ask you that 'cause before. Excuse me, before your mom hit record. You said you really like ending with a little punch like that, so you do that on purpose, right? Yeah.

Miss O

I feel like Mommy has. Don't you do that? Sometimes mom.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, I think that, you know, we've talked about when we were talking about your third grade. We. Talking about. Hook and then there's something about being able to sort of wrap that full circle.

Miss O

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

People feel like they have a a nice tidy package, right?

Vicki Atkinson

Yep. Yeah. Well, and I think sometimes your mom is right. Sometimes when you read something, even before you know who the author is, you're like, oh. That sounds like win or that sounds like it

could be miss. Oh. And that's such a cool thing to do as a writer to kind of put your mark on it. And sometimes people call that kind of finding your voice. So I mean, a lot of people live their whole lives Nazo and they don't know how to do that. Look at. You you just said, you know, I can do it, but I want to start with a good hook, right. And tell a good story and then end with a little Zing. Right.

Miss O

That's kind of like what every story needs. Want to write? Pretty good story. You just throw in a little bit, just a little little.

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Miss O

To it. Just a little few marches too much.

Wynne Leon

Right. Seasoning not too much, not too spicy.

Miss O

A little, that's what. Supposed to? Spike, you all know how. Just a little bit.

Vicki Atkinson

No. Will you? I have a question about your piece. That OK.

Miss O

Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

I'm so I know I like almost asked like ahead of time. But I was like, oh, when you were talking at? About kind of the the hand motions that were going on. Me about. Was that like a little bit of like sign language or tell me more?

Miss O

It's mostly just so we are in Mama.

Speaker 5

What's the room called?

Miss O

There's two different there's, I don't know what that room.

Wynne Leon

You know they have the main sanctuary and then they have the. Community Center.

Speaker 2

Yes.

Wynne Leon

Or I can't remember exactly what they call that room. Yeah, it's the community hall of the Community Center.

Miss O

Yeah. And then there's a stage like a little stage behind. And then there's people with instruments and people singing behind us and like.

Speaker

Mm.

Miss O

We just it's like. It's easier for all the song. Some of the songs.

Wynne Leon

What it dig deep?

Miss O

I dig it, I dig it. I dig it, I dig it.

Vicki Atkinson

Gotcha.

Miss O

Dig. I dig it. Another one.

Wynne Leon

Umm.

Speaker 5

Mountain Top Valley low. I'm going to sing wherever I go. I'm going to sing.

Vicki Atkinson

I love that.

Speaker 5

I'm going to sing. I'm going to sing. I'm going to sing wherever I go.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Miss O

So probably got that so long.

Vicki Atkinson

I love that. I love that.

Wynne Leon

And it's good 'cause you know the hand motion leaders that Olivia. Yeah, it just gets everybody up and moving it just it's a it just really brings whatever the song is, you know.

Speaker 2

Yeah. Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Just makes it embodied, really.

Miss O

I'm definitely one of the more enthusiastic ones.

Speaker 2

Yeah. Of the crew.

Vicki Atkinson

No, I I love that because it adds. Makes it more of a performance.

Miss O

Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

And then it's really closely aligned with making a service accessible too, because for people that have, you know that are hard of hearing or you know hearing challenges, it's yeah, it's a step in the right direction to make sure everyone is sort of enjoying.

Miss O

Yeah. I'm like a dancer. Like from I was. We'd go to the farmers market and there's videos of me just jumping up and down, like dancing to it like I've been at like TN B, and I've danced on stage there.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Miss O

Like I. Danced a lot in my life. So I'm a singer and a dancer, so.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, and it all goes. You're writing your singing. You play the piano, right?

Miss O

Yep, that's.

Vicki Atkinson

Love to dance? Yeah, yeah, yeah, I think of that. P word performer.

Wynne Leon

So it's what's interesting to me about that is, I mean. Your grandfather Bumpa also was fine. Being in front of an audience. You know he loved people as much as you love people and that's.

Miss O

I love. Our whole family is are pretty big people.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. We like people a lot.

Miss O

People.

Wynne Leon

But one of the things that's amazing in the piece that you wrote is that you bring. In that that change of perspective from sadness to appreciating your Papa and and I know you're so proud to be his granddaughter, yeah.

Miss O

I'm so proud every time. Go to the. They're always like, I'm like, I remember one time like the last episode that I was in, like, how I sang in church. I think I already said this, but when?

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Miss O

When I let the director, she always like, helps us. Like, get in order like sing on stage. Helped with that. She was like, I want you to say your last name too, so. They know. Granddaughter, you are. And that just makes me so happy. Also like we have like a special connection. To like our family has a special connection to some of like preachers there.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, So what is? What are the some of the things that you've learned from others about your grandfather about Baba?

Miss O

I've learned that. Oh, shoot this hard one.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. Well, we've named a couple already and didn't mean to steal your Thunder, but the enthusiasm and the people person.

Miss O

Help. Yeah, there's a few people person. He this is all what I've heard.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.

Miss O

Completely wrong. I feel like I it feels like I've met him for some reason. I've heard so much about him that it I it just feels like I'm on the cost of meeting him. That was my. Like even meeting him as a baby. Just.

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Miss O

Just he could have stayed a day longer and then he would have known I existed.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.

Miss O

He known for sure that I was gonna exist.

Speaker

Mm.

Miss O

But well, I've learned that he's a people. I've learned that he's he well, that he's a preacher and that he'd write his sermons. In church.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.



Miss O

I've learned all of the nicknames that he'd call all my family members.

Vicki Atkinson

Tell.

Wynne Leon

Greeting people. You know always something positive to say.

Miss O

Yeah, always. Like, I'm so tired. Well, do this you can keep. You can do this. You always like. You'd be like this. He always light up the room. I feel like he'd always like. He'd be tired and exhausted.

Having a good bad day, and then he'd he'd come in and he'd just, like, make you happy. Feel like? I feel so weird that I've even met him and I know all the stuff. Wow.

Vicki Atkinson

But I think it's it's also one of the the reasons why I have such mad respect for your writing, because I think you know, your mom has so many artifacts. You know from your bumpas sermons and his sense of humor, and sometimes she shared those, you know, with her blogging friends. And certainly she about all of that in her book. But in addition to you just loving people and liking you know the performing aspects, it's really a beautiful thing to see that you want to be the storyteller too and do the writing part because that kind of goes on forever and it's how you keep him close.

Speaker 2

Right. Yeah. Yeah.

Miss O

All the people I. I wanna keep them close to. I don't wanna ever lose them because I know if there's a chance I lose them, there's a possibility I won't get them back. And I wanna always have them close to my chest. Because I know that if I keep them close to me, they'll always be near me forever.

Speaker 2

No. You can't, yeah.

Miss O

And I wanna have that.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, your mom does such a good job of that.

Speaker 2

Right.

Vicki Atkinson

Really humble and probably doesn't talk about it much. To you as she could. But I encourage you, as you keep writing. Keep asking your mom to show you more. You know about what she's written, because there's so many things about your bumpa just the other day your mom was writing something so beautiful about. Parenting. And she she made the comment. I forget which blog post this was in when, but you made the comment that whatever your dad was working on as a topic, you know for the upcoming, you know, and his sermon. That was his focus, and he was so intentional, right, about really devoting himself to that, that he was kind of a better human for the week because he was focusing on that one thing. I may not be getting that quite right, but.

Wynne Leon

No. Yeah, no, that's what he always. Like if he was going to if he had a sermon about parenting, then he was a better parent that week. A sermon about, you know, being a husband than he was a better husband too. It just what we focus on, it really matters.

Speaker 2

Huh. Yeah.

Miss O

And I feel like if you wrote something about being a people person, of course that wouldn't change for him.

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Miss O

Always a people person that's never gonna change.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, that's true.

Miss O

Even if he's writing a. About how being a people, people person.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, that's.

Miss O

No, no.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, but I think you know, it's just such a. I mean, I think this is big to your point. What we all want is to to have our impact felt, you know, carried on.

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

You know the positive things we live behind. World. And so you know, you didn't meet him, but yet you're still carrying him. And that's what's so beautiful in this piece and in your heart. And we really appreciate that.

Speaker

Come on.

Vicki Atkinson

So much, and we always ask our guests what they're working on next. If you could imagine where you're going to be. Let's say a year 2. What are your greatest dreams at the moment?

Miss O

That's a really hard question. Of course I'm going to keep on writing because that's I love doing that.

Wynne Leon

Yay good.

Miss O

Keep on learning. These goals.

Wynne Leon

Well, and you're starting your your own. Channel.

Miss O

Yes, I am.

Wynne Leon

Biggie, I don't know if you've heard about this. La Yes, she has gonna have her.

Vicki Atkinson

A little something about a YouTube.

Miss O

Still, yeah.

Speaker

Mm.

Wynne Leon

Tell us more about that.

Miss O

He wants.

Speaker 2

Yes.

Miss O

One of my passions is swan by all the amazing, and she has given me pretty much a whole room in the house dedicated to slime. Shout out to my mom. Amazing. I have gotten ingredients and stuff like that, so I'm creating a slime channel channel. Call Laura.

Wynne Leon

Wow.

Miss O

I have so many nicknames. Oh my God.

Speaker 2

But my gosh.

Miss O

And I just make videos about slime how to? Slime all that stuff, yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Is this like a plastic covered room? Right. When you say your mom was being really generous with where, like, the fact that it's in the house is pretty amazing. Rach, wow.

Speaker 2

Hey. Hello.

Miss O

It's it's better than what it used to be because it used to be like. Food. Room and. The other half of the room was just. JUNK filled with junk. All the art supplies and stuff just packed on me. At this, so we organized mommies so great. And we organized it on. Cleared another closet and we put all the extra.

Speaker 5

Food in there.

Miss O

And then. Our garage. We have all the extra stuff like a couch that we thought would fit in the room, that didn't.

Speaker

Have a junk.

Speaker 5

And.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, but you'll want some stuff because I imagine you doing your slime channel.

Speaker 2

Yes.

Vicki Atkinson

But then I mean while the camera is on, you could sing a little dance a little, you know?

Miss O

Yeah.

Speaker

Yeah, she's not.

Vicki Atkinson

Make it a thing.

Wynne Leon

She's just showing her hands in this channel, so she's not doing. Yeah. So it's not a full on gotcha, but your form is right.

Vicki Atkinson

See. Yes. Yeah. You'll be narrating it.

Miss O

My voice.

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

And you know she miso is quite good with slime.

Speaker 2

Wow.

Wynne Leon

Quite amazing she can. Old dried out piece of slime and you know, I often say, why don't we throw that away? And she's like, no, I'm a collector. So then she can fix. She can fix the old dried out slime. Really. I mean I.

Vicki Atkinson

You're going to need to teach me.

Wynne Leon

What's that?

Miss O

He throws out on purpose.

Wynne Leon

Just so you can fix it.

Miss O

Yep, just so I can fix it.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

I I am so. We're going to have to learn more about this, so maybe that'll be the 4th time that you come back to visit with us. Have to learn about how to regenerate slime.

Miss O

Yeah. Mommy has been the biggest helper in this.

Wynne Leon

Yes, well, you know she. Oh well, you have done it was your idea and you've done a great job and and made that happen.

Miss O

You don't even know she. Yeah, it's my friend she had. Moved away. She moved. I was a few years ago.

Wynne Leon

7 maybe.

Miss O

But the last time she came back? She told. That she had a YouTube channel. And I'm like about her passion was Barbies. I think another one of her friends and.

Speaker 2

Wow.

Vicki Atkinson

Ah.

Miss O

Then, like I realized, like I love making songs like I could make this a thing that I share with other people.

Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

Speaker 5

So.

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

I love that because all of that, everything that we've talked about is all just different versions of you being creative.

Miss O

And I don't wanna keep my hobbies to myself like every time.

Wynne Leon

Right.

Miss O

I have a. They come over, they find out that I have slime and that I can make slime and my brother tells that I can make slime.

Speaker 5

And then they're like.

Miss O

Oh, can can I make my own slime? Yeah, I am so damn into a rocker.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, that's a skill, yeah.

Miss O

Then we make slime. And then I have this. Highland containers that are just filled. All of my friends slimes.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, well, this is when we hear from a lot of other parents that their slime free households.

Speaker 2

That.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, I bet, right. Keep it at your house.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, you are beautiful.

Miss O

I want to share them with everybody else. The hobbies. Very. They're very nice things to have.

Vicki Atkinson

Well, so I have one more question about that because you know, I'm slime inquisitive, I'll have to tune into the YouTube YouTube channel but like. Can you sense the? Can it have like a smell?

Miss O

Definitely.

Vicki Atkinson

So I mean it could have like some nice I'm thinking about like sensory gardens and things that people do for relaxation. It could be that the slime could be like a healthy thing, right? Play with your slime, yeah.

Miss O

It's right now I'm just making like basic ones like 3 ingredient ones. Like if you're. Like when I make it like for sensory things like. Like if I'm stressed out, I go into the rec room and I play with a bunch of slime I make.

Speaker 2

Yeah.



Miss O

I do stuff with slime, but I'm trying to keep it as basic as I can so that more people can make it and making a bunch of ingredients.

Speaker 2

Yeah, right.

Miss O

Optional like this is optional. You do not have to add. This color is awesome sentence optional.

Speaker 2

Right, right.

Miss O

This ingredient is optional like fat.

Vicki Atkinson

But think of all the things that you could do. The world is waiting for you to explore slime, right? I was so excited.

Wynne Leon

I think miss. Oh, you already have one subscriber.

Speaker 2

Yeah. Me, me, me, me.

Vicki Atkinson

Well this. Fun and I'm always so happy to see you. And you know your mom has every reason in the world to be proud of you.

Speaker 2

Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

I am too. I am too, and I know everyone's going to enjoy everything that you wrote and the miss factor so good.

Wynne Leon

So good. Oh, thank you so much.

Miss O

Oh my.

Wynne Leon

Just love.

Miss O

Thank you guys for inviting me on this. Love being here? Amazing.

Vicki Atkinson

We love it. You're a natural.

Miss O

Of other wonderful people to hang out with on foreign days that I'm having to do boring stuff. I stay home from school because things.

Vicki Atkinson

Paul.

Miss O

Going on. I have this one thing to do it's.

Wynne Leon

Yes. So fun, we love that.

Vicki Atkinson

You think of us that way. We'll save that for sometime in the future when you might change your mind and we'll play this.

Wynne Leon

Absolutely.

Speaker 2

Back. Yeah, I don't.

Wynne Leon

Yep, that's good point.

Miss O

I don't. I'm ever going to change my mind.

Wynne Leon

Ohh sweetie. OK. Thanks for coming on.

Vicki Atkinson

Love you.

Miss O

Yes, I love you. Bye.

Speaker 2

The.

Wynne Leon

Thank you for listening. Our music is composed for sharing the heart of the matter by the exquisitely talented duo of Jack Canfora and Rob Koenig for show notes and more great inspiration, please visit our site at [sharingtheheartofthe. Dot com.](http://sharingtheheartofthe.dot.com)