

# INHERITED VALUES AND LIFESTYLE

Have you lived up to your family's expectations?

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## NOT FOLLOWING

'Catch hold', my father said, ' catch hold like this!'  
Trying to teach me how to carpenter,  
'Not that way, boy! When will you ever learn?'  
I dug the chisel deep into my hand.  
'Shoot!' said my father, helping with my gun,  
And aiming at the rabbit-'Quick, boy, fire!'  
But I had not released the safety-catch.  
I was a poet. That was why I failed.  
My faith in this chimera brought an end  
To all my father's hopes. In later years,  
Now old and ill, he asked me once again  
To carry on the firm, I still refused.  
And now when I behold, fresh-published, new,  
A further volume of my verse, I see  
His kind grey eyes look woundedly at mine,  
I see his workmen seeking other jobs,  
And that red granite obelisk that marks  
The family grave in Highgate Cemetery  
Points an accusing finger to the sky.

*John Betjeman, 1906-1984*

“You get to choose who you are. Legacy, memories of the past, can serve us well. But we cannot let them define us. When heritage becomes a box instead of an inspiration, it has gone too far.”

*Brandon Sanderson, 1975-*

Are you content with the way your life has turned out?