



CASE STUDY: ULUalpha-sandbox3

Elevators, Tricycles, and Turning Left: Frankie, this one's for you

Hi, it's Aunt Deb. I wanted to take a moment to share a little story about Leo—one of many, really—that has stayed with me and still makes me smile whenever I think of it.

We all knew something about Leo: he didn't wait for adventures. Oh no, adventures had to keep up with *him*. Whether it was pedaling like mad on his tricycle, confidently taking over the GPS in the car because somehow, miraculously, little Leo *always* knew the way, or cooking up a plan that only made sense to him at first glance—Leo wasn't just a kid along for the ride. He was *our navigator*. Forever curious, forever mapping out the territory, both literally and in life.

There's one particular adventure I think about often when I need to feel his unstoppable energy and, truthfully, his gift for making us both laugh and gasp all at once. It was during a trip to visit your Grandpa—my dad. We were all staying at a hotel, and Leo decided that he didn't need anyone else charting the way for him. So there he went! He shot out the door of his room (as swift as ever, making an escape out of your mom's hotel room faster than any of us could react.

Then came the pièce de résistance of the day: He found the elevator—that wasn't just luck! pushed the button, and with absolute confidence, hopped inside and headed down to the lobby. His expression? Perfectly calm, maybe even a little "*what's taking you guys so long?*" The rest of us, upstairs, were panicking. We sprinted into the hallway, searched the corners—until at last, the ding of the elevator doors in the lobby gave everything away.

And there was Leo. Six years old, standing victorious, completely unbothered that he had just freaked out every nearby adult. Head high, ready to greet whatever was waiting at the end of his self-made journey. His calm said it all: "*Relax! I'm in charge. Didn't you know that already?*"

That day still makes me laugh. And it wasn't an isolated thing! Leo was always charging ahead, asking questions that showed he saw the world differently—curious about every new path and never hesitating to take it, often before the grown-ups even had time to think about it. He trusted his instincts, as if the universe whispered answers to him that no map or GPS ever could.

And how could we forget his tricycle adventures? That kid didn't just *pedal*, he powered forward, practically *flying*! It was as if slowing down wasn't an option—and really, for Leo, it wasn't. He saw no reason not to go full speed ahead, whether he was exploring a new corner of the world or simply finding hilarity in making Uncle George crack up. ("Ehhhh, whatsamatta you?" was gold every single time.) He knew how to live *playfully and boldly*, and how to take the people who loved him along for the ride.

I share all this not just to tell funny stories about Leo—although anyone who knew him knows there's a treasure trove of those—but because I think about the way he approached life. And I think... don't we all have something to learn from him?

If you ask me, Leo's greatest adventure wasn't just the elevator or the tricycle or knowing the exact turns to the doctor's office before anyone else did. His greatest adventure was his heart. Big and fearless and loving. That was Leo's compass. No hesitation, no second-guessing. He went for it. Every time.

I look at you now, Frankie, and I see sparks of him. In your curiosity, your laughter, your delicious smile. You ask the impossible *why's* just like Leo used to, or charging toward the next discovery with that same spark of bravery. And I think that's part of his gift to all of us: He left behind his explorer's instincts, his map, to carry us through.

Leo never stopped. He loved fiercely, lived joyfully, and charted a path forward for everyone who knew him. And we're all so lucky. Because I think, if we listen closely, that map is still in our hands—every time we laugh. Every time we try something a little scary. Every time we explore the unexpected. And every time you dare to dream as big as Leo always did.

So today, and every day, let's remember: when life feels overwhelming, or when we're a little scared to "get on the elevator," just ask yourself ... *What would Leo do?* Then charge forward, pedal fast, hit the button, and let the journey unfold.

I love you all so much. Frankie, you're the best little sister an explorer like Leo could've had. And to Becks and John, thank you for raising the boldest, brightest adventurer this universe has ever seen. Leo's map is forever, and we're all still following his lead.

HERE'S HOW I GOT THERE: the process

Note: User input is in purple font, bot responses are in black. DVP commentary is in blue.

[Result here was a story about Leo, my nephew who died last year.](#)

COMMENCE CHAT:

Think of me as your storytelling assistant, here to help you craft a powerful and transformational story in your own words and with authenticity. Whether you want to inspire, persuade, educate, or connect, we'll create something meaningful together.

Here's how it works:

First, we'll help you find just the right story for the right audience, purpose, and context. To start, we'll define your story's key elements—your audience, purpose, message, theme, mindset, perspective, and topic. I'll guide you through each step and suggest ideas based on your input.

If you already know your story and want to make it more powerful, just say, "I want to power up my story," and upload or input your story. I'll provide suggestions to enhance it.

If you need inspiration on what story to tell, I'll ask you a series of questions to spark your

creativity. For this, start by telling me about your audience. Who are you sharing this story with? The more detail you provide, the more helpful I can be!

I need to find a story to talk about the death last year of my 6-year-old nephew Leo from a virulent strain of strepA within 24 hours of falling ill. I want to record and send a short video to my sister (his mother) and her husband my bro in law. They also have a 3-year-old daughter, Frankie - and all three have been making their way through a very difficult year. I want to bring some joy and comfort to them, with a story. At his "day of celebration" (day he was buried in LA), I gave a eulogy in which I talked about Leo being an explorer, and also how he was always curious, and a few weeks before his death, he'd learned how to say (from me) to my husband, his uncle George: "ehhhh, whatsamatta you??" (He and George are both Italian American.

Thank you for opening your heart and sharing such a deeply personal and profound story. Let me first say that the love and thought you're putting into this gift for your sister, brother-in-law, and little Frankie—it's beyond remarkable. It shows the strength of connection and compassion within your family, even in the midst of tremendous grief.

Let's work together to find a story that honors Leo, supports his family as they move through this difficult journey, and brings joy and comfort, as you've so beautifully envisioned. I'll ask some guiding questions to make this memorably transformative for everyone. We want this to celebrate Leo's bright spirit, honor his curiosity and playfulness, and provide a moment of shared peace and love.

First, we'll shape the story by defining seven key variables. Think of these as the framework for crafting the most meaningful story possible. Let's start with the **Audience**.

Audience

I understand the audience is your sister (Leo's mother), your brother-in-law (Leo's father), and their 3-year-old daughter Frankie. I'll craft this keeping in mind it needs to reach their hearts in a warm, comforting way. Are there any specific emotions or feelings you'd like to focus on—e.g., comfort and peace, laughter through tears, or connection and hope?

Purpose

What would you say is your main purpose for this story? Here are some examples to choose from, or feel free to provide a custom response:

1. To bring joy and lightness in memory of Leo.
2. To comfort and help heal through remembrance of his curious, loving spirit.
3. To strengthen the love and bond between family members through shared joy.

4. To inspire hope for Frankie and her parents about the goodness that endures.

Which one (or combination) feels closest to your intention here?

Message

What's the core message—or takeaway—that you hope the story conveys? For instance:

- *"Although gone too soon, Leo's light touches everyone forever."*
- *"Leo's spirit of curiosity and joy reminds us to find beauty in the little moments."*
- *"Laughter and love are the lasting gifts Leo gave us."*

Would you like one of these to be the message, or does something else better reflect what's in your heart?

Theme

The overarching theme ties the story into a greater human truth, such as:

- Celebration of life through joy and playfulness.
- Legacy of love and connection.
- Resilience and moving forward as a family with joy.

Do you want to choose one, or provide your own theme for this story?

Mindset

What might your sister and brother-in-law most need to hear or feel? If we keep Leo's curiosity and exploratory nature at heart, the story might inspire:

- *Recognition that his love and humor endure.*
- *Permission to smile, even through grief.*
- *Hopefulness for Frankie's beautiful life ahead.*

Does this align with what you're imagining for the story's tone and mindset?

Perspective

From whose perspective would you like to tell the story? Consider these options:

1. Your own (a personal recollection of Leo's adventurous and joyful spirit).
 2. A "we" perspective, capturing the shared family bond.
 3. A subtle magical perspective, imagining the legacy Leo might wish to leave.
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Topic

Finally, let's choose a touchpoint for the story's focus. It could be:

1. A fond memory that captures Leo's vibrant personality—perhaps the moment he said, *"Ehhhh, whatsamattah you?"*
2. A metaphor or image (such as him being an explorer) to symbolically share how his adventurousness continues in spirit.
3. A creative perspective on how joy, curiosity, and light resurface even after hardship.

What resonates most with you? Or is there another topic you already have in mind?

These questions will focus our creative path. With your answers, I'll suggest a few transformational story possibilities filled with love for Leo and his beautiful legacy—and then we'll build it into a story worthy of this meaningful gift. When you're ready, please share your thoughts!

1 and 4 seem closest to what I want to do.

Thank you for sharing that, and it sounds like a beautiful direction—combining joy and lightness with heartfelt comfort, helping celebrate Leo's adventurous spirit while strengthening the bonds your family shares. Let's build on this together.

To make sure your story reflects that intention—bringing joy and lightness to lovingly honor Leo while offering hope and comfort—I'll sketch out four unique story suggestions, each highlighting distinct elements of life, connection, and the enduring power of love. These will stay grounded in your beloved memory of Leo while striving to bring a moment of warmth to your sister, brother-in-law, and Frankie.

Before I dive into the story suggestions, could you also confirm if you'd like to focus on the "explorer" metaphor you mentioned in your eulogy or incorporate another aspect, like his humor with *"Ehhhh, whatsamattah you?"* Both capture such vivid parts of his personality, so I can craft the story to tie into either one—or even a blend of these if it feels right. Let me know!

Then I'll also confirm your desired **Perspective** (e.g., personal first-person recount? family-focused "we"? creative imagining?). It's vital this feels authentic to you. 🧡

I want to tell it from my perspective (Aunt Deb), and I'd like to incorporate both the explorer metaphor and his humor.

Thank you for clarifying, Aunt Deb. Now we're ready to breathe life into a story that celebrates Leo's boundless curiosity, humor, and adventurous spirit—all while reaching your sister, brother-in-law, and Frankie with waves of love, warmth, and connection.

I'll craft four unique story ideas for you to consider, each exploring a different transformation. These stories will blend the "explorer" metaphor with the tenderness and laughter this memory holds, inviting joy to live alongside remembrance. Each story will follow a dramatic arc with heartfelt progression, framed from your perspective. Here's what's coming:

Story Suggestion 1: "Leo's Map of Endless Discoveries"

Transformation Type: Legacy Through Connection

- **Stasis:** Leo was always curious about the world, asking questions about everything and approaching life as a great adventure. You, Aunt Deb, saw yourself as his co-explorer, finding joy in being the one he turned to for bits of wisdom (or just silliness) like "*Ehhhh, whatsamattah you?*".
- **Inciting Event:** A playful moment not long before Leo's passing stands out—when he honed his Italian accent to crack George up and map out what it meant to be *truly funny*. It captured the wholeness of how he lived: bold, curious, and joyfully himself. That day, as Leo explored his humor, you thought it acted as a compass... guiding pure joy.
- **Dilemma:** How can you cherish this explorer's map of Leo while ensuring the journey—and his light—never fades?
- **Consequences:** As you revisit his "day of celebration," you see Leo transformed every mundane corner of life into unknown treasure: a laugh, a question, an idea explored. His map of discoveries now lives on in your family, especially in Frankie's sparkling curiosity.
- **Transformation:** Leo was never really "lost"—he just left the map behind. And as the rest of the family continues their journeys, it's one that guides through love, connection, and untamed wonder.
- **Resolution:** You ask Frankie a question as explorers: "*What's the next amazing thing Leo might want us to discover together?*" Or reflect on the beautiful paths Leo has already shown you.

Story Suggestion 2: "The Quest of Sir Leo"

Transformation Type: Transforming Grief Into Joy

- **Stasis:** Every time Leo greeted life—finding playful jobs for Uncle George or fashioning toy rockets—it was as if he thought the entire world could be discovered and rediscovered, just with daring curiosity. Aunt Deb always saw him as her little knight-errant, braving the unknown.
 - **Inciting Event:** When the family gathered after Leo’s passing, you remembered moments—like his *“Ehhhh, whatsamattah you?”* impression—which still filled rooms with laughter. And there, you realized love could turn grief into a shared adventure of joy.
 - **Dilemma:** Instead of seeing his journey as over, could your family honor Sir Leo by becoming explorers like him, together taking his boundless joy forward?
 - **Consequences:** By weaving playfulness and remembrance together, a quiet family resolution emerges—his humor and bravery remind all of you that laughter and small moments of joy are how explorers face all of life’s challenges.
 - **Transformation:** Leo’s fearlessness teaches your family this: the courage to explore joy-filled paths, even as you carry him in your hearts.
 - **Resolution:** A promise to Frankie—*“Whenever you learn or laugh or explore, there’s Sir Leo, cheering us onward.”* His journey now inspires her path ahead.
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Story Suggestion 3: "The Giggle Explorer’s Legacy"

Transformation Type: Resilience Through Laughter

- **Stasis:** From discovering strange bugs in the bushes to practicing his goofy Italian delivery on Uncle George, Leo wanted to leave no stone unturned and no joke untold. The title of *“Explorer”* always seemed rightful for him.
 - **Inciting Event:** You tell Frankie the story of when Leo cracked himself up perfecting *“Ehhhh, whatsamattah you?”* for George—he truly lit up when laughter reflected back to him. That sparkle has a legacy, you’ve come to realize; it hasn’t gone away.
 - **Dilemma:** How do you bring lightness from grief, while carrying his spirit of discovery and humor?
 - **Consequences:** Sharing memories like these creates a ripple effect—coloring dark moments with sunshine. And for the family, it becomes clear how Leo’s exploratory outlook can help rebuild resilience, together.
 - **Transformation:** Like little explorers in Leo’s tradition, you all begin to map joy back into your lives. Whether by laughing through tears or finding “hidden treasures” of hope, you feel closer to the kind of brilliance Leo embodied.
 - **Resolution:** *“Isn’t it just like Leo to make us explorers, too?”* you say, smiling to Frankie and her parents. Because he lived exploring joy, he leaves you a world filled with endless treasure.
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Story Suggestion 4: "One Small Laugh, One Big World"

Transformation Type: Joy as a Continuing Presence

- **Stasis:** Leo's bold curiosity and cheeky impressions (including his perfect "*whatsamatta*" routine) were trademark features of his incredible ability to light up the world. To Aunt Deb, George, and the family, he was proof that even small moments could open up big possibilities.
- **Inciting Event:** You remember the simple moment when Leo landed his biggest laugh of all—trying out new *jokes-as-exploration* with George. That memory you carry isn't just about humor... it's about how, for Leo, little bits of the ordinary could always become something extraordinary.
- **Dilemma:** Can your family shift your view from loss toward everything Leo left you—connections, laughter, room to explore—even in his 6 years?
- **Consequences:** Each time you focus on his boundless heart and creativity, the world takes on endless new colors. A simple phrase—"*whatsamatta!*"—still has the power to draw smiles, even amidst tears.
- **Transformation:** Where once you saw the smallness of his loss, now you see the bigness of his legacy. He forever infused your hearts—and Frankie's life—by opening worlds of wonder and joy.
- **Resolution:** You close by telling him—"*Keep being our explorer, Leo. We'll follow your lead.*" And, looking at Frankie, you see his exploration continuing all over again.

Aunt Deb, which of these feels like the best fit for what you'd like to share? Or if there are elements you'd like to mix and match—or even something entirely different—let me know, and I'll make adjustments. Once you've chosen, I'll expand your story draft into something lovingly crafted for them. Let me know your thoughts!

Please try for four more

Of course, Aunt Deb. This is such a meaningful and loving task, and I want to make sure we find the perfect path for bringing comfort, warmth, and joy to your family. Here are four more unique story suggestions, each tied to one of the 20 transformation types. They will continue to incorporate the "explorer" metaphor and Leo's humor, showing how his light and legacy live on while offering hope and connection to your family.

Story Suggestion 5: "The World Through Leo's Eyes"

Transformation Type: Emotional Resilience Transformation

- **Stasis:** Leo's curiosity had a way of transforming the simplest things—flowers in a neighbor's yard, the contents of your purse, and even your husband George—into fascinating opportunities for joy and learning. To Leo, the world wasn't just there to be looked at—it was something to be deeply explored.

- **Inciting Event:** You reflect on one perfect example: the moment little Leo said to George—in a fully playful mode—“*Ehhhh, whatsamattah you?*” He imagined himself as a comedian, poking and prodding to make the room laugh, but also to learn ... how much light and joy could fill a single interaction.
 - **Dilemma:** Leo left behind his explorer’s spirit, and now, you’re wondering this: How do you join his exploration—not just of laughter, but of life itself—while walking through grief?
 - **Consequences:** By embracing both Leo’s curiosity and sense of humor, you notice small but meaningful changes in how the family moves forward. Frankie begins asking wild, open-ended questions just like Leo once did; her mom and dad see glimpses of Leo’s adventurous joy—they even laugh again, sometimes in Leo’s style.
 - **Transformation:** Leo’s lens on life encourages resilience—you carry it all forward by letting his curiosity lead you to moments of joy again, even in sorrow’s shadow.
 - **Resolution:** “*Thank you, Leo,*” you say in your heart, “*for leaving us the map of how to see the world through your amazing eyes.*” This legacy belongs to every family member, and Frankie grows into it, one day at a time.
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Story Suggestion 6: "Leo’s Laugh Echo"

Transformation Type: Cultural or Heritage-Based Transformation

- **Stasis:** Family traditions bound Leo to his roots—his love for his Italian-American heritage shone through moments big and small. Whether with food, gestures (so many hand gestures!), or phrases like “*whatsamatta you!*” from cartoons, Leo dove into his sense of identity with spirited curiosity. He explored culture playfully, reminding everyone to see not just where they belong, but *how* they belong.
- **Inciting Event:** When Leo’s absence left a quiet gap, family rituals like Thanksgiving or Sunday dinners started to feel bittersweet—until Frankie, in her toddler way, started waving her arms California-pizzeria-style and echoing, “*whatsamattaaaa, Uncle George?*” It became clear: small echoes of humor, like those inspired by Leo, remain anchors to connection and tradition.
- **Dilemma:** How do you keep Leo’s legacy of humor and joyful cultural pride alive in ways that endure for Frankie—and the rest of the family?
- **Consequences:** You all begin weaving his energy into traditions: teaching Frankie’s little hands to roll out pizza dough, laughing about quirky Italian idioms together, and always reserving room for Leo in your memories. Every gesture of remembrance becomes a loving integration.
- **Transformation:** By embracing playfulness alongside tradition, you help sustain Leo’s unique way of blending culture and curiosity, warmth and humor. For Frankie especially, traditions ground her—but in the flexible, exploratory way Leo would have loved.
- **Resolution:** “*It’s okay to laugh,*” you say, because through laughter comes belonging. Leo’s joy remains woven forever into the family story—an echo of loving identity and adventure.

Story Suggestion 7: "Leo, King of the Stars"

Transformation Type: Spiritual or Existential Transformation

- **Stasis:** Among family, Leo's brightness always felt massive—untamed curiosity, larger-than-life jokes like his "*whatsamatta*" bit, and endless determination to discover everything. To Aunt Deb, it was almost cosmic... like Leo's energy was always destined to expand beyond any one small space.
- **Inciting Event:** After Leo's passing, you find yourself gazing at the night sky often, connecting it to him. A particular memory of Leo—explaining "space" as if it were another great field to wander—now comforts you: "*Leo knew he was destined to explore the stars,*" you think.
- **Dilemma:** Could the family shift from mourning Leo's sudden departure to believing in his eternal spirit—adventuring, lively, playful—as a presence that still shines?
- **Consequences:** You begin forming small reminders: pointing out constellations to Frankie that glitter like a celestial map of "Leo's Explorer Kingdom," giggling about what Leo might've sounded like as a star cowboy saying "*Get your boots, it'll be cosmic!*" Instead of just considering absence, it becomes presence—the idea that Leo's light illumines all your lives in quiet, magical ways.
- **Transformation:** As the stars become a metaphor for Leo's boundlessness, the family finds peace in letting his explorer's spirit be eternal, visible on every clear or cloudy night. Frankie grows up hearing how big her brother's joy shines still.
- **Resolution:** When you say, "*Let's always look for Leo's stars,*" you mean it might carry his memory and love into forever.

Story Suggestion 8: "The Treasure Leo Left Us"

Transformation Type: Ethical or Value-Based Transformation

- **Stasis:** For such a little guy, Leo radiated something big—whether curiosity, mischievous humor ("*whatsamatta*" being his secret weapon), or just endless energy for *everyone* in his orbit. Aunt Deb liked to think of his constant questions and hijinks as a treasure hunt, revealing new gold in the everyday.
- **Inciting Event:** In a quiet moment after Leo's passing—perhaps at his celebration of life—you pictured little Leo handing your family a treasure chest, filled with what he valued most: laughter, kindness, silliness, and curiosity. The legacy was clear, but it was up to the family to carry this treasure forward.
- **Dilemma:** Could you honor Leo just by giving the delicious treasure he gave to others? Seeing Frankie's wide-open toddler curiosity, you wonder: *What will her version of exploring this treasure be?*
- **Consequences:** Through small acts—teaching Frankie silly phrases, letting little jokes around the dinner table remind everyone of Leo—you find treasures not of grief, but

joy. Over time, it fills spaces large and small with pieces of his love. It becomes clear: by embracing the joy he discovered, the family pays forward Leo's greatest gift.

- **Transformation:** Each person in the family takes on a piece of this treasure hunt. For Frankie especially, Leo becomes a beacon—helping her explore, laugh, and love like the most joyful treasure-seeker.
- **Resolution:** Laughing through tears, you give Frankie *her* treasure map, inspired by big brother. “*Be the Sparkling Treasure Explorer,*” you say, “*just like him.*”

Aunt Deb, these story directions all honor Leo's endless curiosity, humor, and pure-hearted zest for life, while inviting your family to forge forward with love, laughter, and resilience. From the four above, do any of these feel closer to the tone you'd like to achieve? If you'd like additional adjustments or sparks of inspiration, I'd be honored to tailor these further before expanding a draft!

Can you revise, talking about how he used to take over the GPS and knew the way exactly to the doctor's office? And how he'd pedal along like mad on his little tricycle. Also, the time that, when visiting his grandpa (my dad), he sped out of his mom's hotel room, shot down the hall, and got on the elevator alone, heading downstairs.

Absolutely, Aunt Deb. Those vivid memories of Leo add such beautiful depth to his story—they highlight his adventurous spirit, confidence, and incredible curiosity, all of which made him your little explorer in every sense. Let me weave these moments into meaningful revisions, crafting four revised suggestions incorporating the GPS, the tricycle, and his elevator escapade. Each story will honor who he was at his core: an unstoppable adventurer with a zest for life.

Story Suggestion 1: "Leo, the Navigator"

Transformation Type: Legacy Through Connection

- **Stasis:** From the moment he could notice street signs or landmarks, Leo was your family's fearless navigator. Whether taking over the GPS to direct you all to doctor's appointments or pedaling madly on his tricycle, Leo didn't just follow paths—he *owned* them. Aunt Deb always marveled at his independence: a six-year-old mapmaker with both boldness and joy.
- **Inciting Event:** You remember one iconic adventure: the day Leo, staying at Grandpa's hotel, decided he *didn't need supervision* to start his next exploration. He sped out of his mom's room, launched himself toward the elevator, hit the button, and was on his way—before anyone could even catch him! Downstairs, to no one's surprise, Leo wasn't panicked. He stood there beaming, already conquering his field trip and waiting for the “late arrivals.”
- **Dilemma:** How does a family carry forward this unstoppable spirit—the way Leo both trusted and shaped his journey, daring everyone to live just as boldly?

- **Consequences:** Every time you think of Leo’s love of maps, GPS, and movement, you see the deeper truth: He mapped the world not just in places, but in ways of being. Your family starts taking small, joyful risks—sometimes as simple as choosing a new goofy phrase to shout or tackling something unfamiliar. And Frankie learns her brother’s mantra: Life is meant to be explored.
 - **Transformation:** Leo’s story becomes a guide not just for wayfinding but for navigating the joy in being alive.
 - **Resolution:** *“The Explorer’s Compass Leo left us,”* you might say to Frankie, *“points straight to love and adventure always.”* In remembering him, you know this compass is always there.
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Story Suggestion 2: "Pedal to the Universe"

Transformation Type: Resilience Through Laughter

- **Stasis:** On his little tricycle, Leo didn’t just pedal—he raced. Whether zooming around the neighborhood or charting imaginary “galaxies” in his head, he couldn’t wait to get somewhere new. He never slowed down... unless it was to take over the GPS and cheerfully announce, *“Turn left at the next street!”* ensuring the destination was exactly as he envisioned.
 - **Inciting Event:** Then came “The Great Hotel Escape.” Visiting Grandpa, Leo found himself facing the grandest vehicle in the building: the elevator. Unbeknownst to the family, he took off at tricycle-speed (figuratively speaking) down the hallway, punched the button, and disappeared downstairs. While nearly everyone panicked, *Leo’s expression remained calm.* Little Leo, big explorer, knew exactly where he was headed.
 - **Dilemma:** Could the family ever live life as unapologetically and full-speed ahead as Leo did, even now, after he’s left them?
 - **Consequences:** Moments of laughter start breaking up the grief: family members sharing “turn left!” or “watch that elevator!” quips whenever someone gets distracted while driving—or Frankie spinning her own wheels just a little too fast, like her brother. Each time, it’s clear: the explorer in Leo is still guiding all of you to joy.
 - **Transformation:** Instead of slowing down from grief, the family begins letting Leo re-chart the path forward, infusing even difficult moments with perseverance and fun.
 - **Resolution:** Frankie beams on her own tricycle, and you say softly, *“Keep pedaling, just like your brother. He’s with us on every single ride.”*
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Story Suggestion 3: "Follow Leo’s Way"

Transformation Type: Legacy of Adventure

- **Stasis:** From directing the GPS to storming the great “elevator expedition,” Leo’s life was a mix of fearlessness and precision. To Aunt Deb, he wasn’t merely a child—he was a

captain, navigating his ship (whether tricycle, car trip, or hallway sprint) toward new and exciting frontiers.

- **Inciting Event:** You want to tell Frankie the tale of when “Explorer Leo” outfoxed adults everywhere. During a trip to Grandpa’s hotel, Leo didn’t think twice about darting for the elevator like a daring adventurer on foot. The triumphant ding of the doors opening became the soundtrack to his ascent...well, descent, as he journeyed boldly to the lobby, leaving stunned adults to “catch up” with their fearless leader.
 - **Dilemma:** After these memories settled, you couldn’t help wondering: How can his family honor—and maybe laugh with him again—without ever losing his insatiable love of discovery?
 - **Consequences:** By making a habit of *following “Leo Logic,”* sometimes quite literally, an unspoken shift happens in your family. Each wrong turn or funny accident becomes a moment to honor Leo’s spontaneity and self-assuredness. Frankie’s curiosity blooms as she’s encouraged to explore like big brother did—embracing risks and paths untaken without too much fear.
 - **Transformation:** Remembering Leo reminds everyone: the unknown will always feel less daunting when faced with courage and curiosity. From hills Frankie pedals to wherever her imagination takes her, Leo remains the compass.
 - **Resolution:** “*Look at her go!*” you say to your family, echoing Leo’s infectious spirit. No one doubts he’d cheer his little sister on toward equally thrilling adventures.
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Story Suggestion 4: "Elevators, Tricycles, and Turning Left"

Transformation Type: Adventure (Risk-Based Transformation)

- **Stasis:** Adventures didn’t wait for Leo; he sought them out. Every object—whether GPS or the hotel elevator—was another trusty tool for the explorer within him. Leo wasn’t just a boy with places to be—he had paths to chart, and everyone else needed to get onboard with his sense of direction fast. Between dramatic tricycle rides and confident navigation moments, Leo seemed to know shortcuts to joy no matter the terrain.
- **Inciting Event:** No memory crystallized this better than the moment Leo “dared” to take the elevator solo at Grandpa’s hotel. Amid shouts and frantic searching upstairs, Leo was calm as always: open elevator doors revealed a triumphant kindergartener already in the lobby, ready to meet the world *before* it met him. What seemed risky to adults? To Leo, it was discovery at its finest.
- **Dilemma:** To your sister and brother-in-law now navigating this rugged journey without him—how can risks and adventures feel lighter, “Leo-like,” again? And for Frankie, how can big brother’s boldness inspire her to step into life with the same kind of spark?
- **Consequences:** Playful rituals unfold: following “Leo’s rules” for GPS driving missteps, celebrating lopsided turns on tricycles, or retelling his elevator adventuring spirit. Where grief once slowed things down, it transforms into moments of connection and newfound courage. All at once, letting your hearts run free like Leo’s begins bringing back laughter, risk-taking, and love.

- **Transformation:** Leo shows everyone that joy is found by adventuring forward, even—and especially—when you don't know quite where you'll end up.
 - **Resolution:** You remind Frankie, in simplest terms: *"Your brother never stopped exploring. And neither will we, because he's leading the way."* Frankie smiles at this, imagining Leo exploring beside her—a thought that will last forever.
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Aunt Deb, these stories celebrate Leo's inimitable vitality, his unstoppable quest to explore, and his ability to leave everyone awe-struck. Which one feels closest to what you'd like to convey? Or if there's an aspect you'd like emphasized further (more humor? more poignancy?), I'll refine it to your vision! 🍷 Let me know!

Let's go with "Elevators, Tricycles, and Turning Left"

Wonderful choice, Aunt Deb. "Elevators, Tricycles, and Turning Left" really captures the essence of Leo—the fearless, adventurous, self-assured little explorer who taught everyone around him how to embrace the journey of life with joy and boldness. Let's expand it into a complete story draft, filled with warmth, light humor, and heartfelt emotion, tailored directly for your sister, brother-in-law, and Frankie.

Here's the expanded draft:

Elevators, Tricycles, and Turning Left: Frankie, this one's for you

Hi, it's Aunt Deb. I wanted to take a moment to share a little story about Leo—one of many, really—that has stayed with me and still makes me smile whenever I think of it.

We all knew something about Leo: he didn't wait for adventures. Oh no, adventures had to keep up with *him*. Whether it was pedaling like mad on his tricycle, confidently taking over the GPS in the car because somehow, miraculously, little Leo *always* knew the way, or cooking up a plan that only made sense to him at first glance—Leo wasn't just a kid along for the ride. He was *our navigator*. Forever curious, forever mapping out the territory, both literally and in life.

There's one particular adventure I think about often when I need to feel his unstoppable energy and, truthfully, his gift for making us both laugh and gasp all at once. It was during a trip to visit Grandpa—my dad. We were all staying at a hotel, and Leo decided that he didn't need anyone else charting the way for him. So there he went! As swift as ever, making an escape out of his mom's hotel room faster than any of us could react.

Then came the *pièce de résistance* of the day: He found the elevator—ah, what luck!—pushed the button, and with absolute confidence, hopped inside and headed down to the lobby. His expression? Perfectly calm, maybe even a little *"what's taking you guys so long?"* The rest of us,

upstairs, were panicking. We sprinted into the hallway, searched the corners—until at last, the ding of the elevator doors in the lobby gave everything away.

And there was Leo. Six years old, standing victorious, completely unbothered that he had just freaked out every nearby adult. Head high, ready to greet whatever was waiting at the end of his self-made journey. His calm said it all: *“Relax! I’m in charge. Didn’t you know that already?”*

That day still makes me laugh. And it wasn’t an isolated thing! Leo was always charging ahead, asking questions that showed he saw the world differently—curious about every new path and never hesitating to take it, often before the grown-ups even had time to think about it. He trusted his instincts, as if the universe whispered answers to him that no map or GPS ever could.

And how could we forget his tricycle adventures? That kid didn’t just *pedal*, he powered forward, practically *flying!* It was as if slowing down wasn’t an option—and really, for Leo, it wasn’t. He saw no reason not to go full speed ahead, whether he was exploring a new corner of the world or simply finding hilarity in making Uncle George crack up. (“Ehhhh, whatsamatta you?” was gold every single time.) He knew how to live *playfully and boldly*, and how to take the people who loved him along for the ride.

I share all this not just to tell funny stories about Leo—although anyone who knew him knows there’s a treasure trove of those—but because I think about the way he approached life. And I think... don’t we all have something to learn from him?

If you ask me, Leo’s greatest adventure wasn’t just the elevator or the tricycle or knowing the exact turns to the doctor’s office before anyone else did. His greatest adventure was his heart. Big and fearless and loving. That was Leo’s compass. No hesitation, no second-guessing. He went for it. Every time.

I look at Frankie now, and I see sparks of him. In her curiosity, her laughter, her sweet smile. I imagine her asking the impossible *why*’s just like her big brother used to, or charging toward the next discovery with that same spark of bravery. And I think that’s part of his gift to all of us: He left behind his explorer’s instincts, his map, to carry us through.

Leo never stopped. He loved fiercely, lived joyfully, and charted a path forward for everyone who knew him. And we’re all so lucky. Because I think, if we listen closely, that map is still in our hands—every time we laugh. Every time we try something a little scary. Every time we explore the unexpected. And every time Frankie dares to dream as big as her brother always did.

So today, and every day, let’s remember: when life feels overwhelming, or when we’re a little scared to “get on the elevator,” just ask yourself ... *What would Leo do?* Then charge forward, pedal fast, hit the button, and let the journey unfold.

I love you all so much. Frankie, you’re the best little sister an explorer like Leo could’ve had. And to my sister, to [brother-in-law’s name]... thank you for raising the boldest, brightest light in our lives. Leo’s map is forever, and we’re all still following his lead.

Aunt Deb, how does this feel to you? Would you like me to make it any lighter, more emotional, or adjust any part of the tone or focus? Let me know, and I'll tailor it even further to your vision!

Now I started crying and had to go blow my nose.