

Touchstones Project Theme: Remembrance

When I awaken in the night and sense my hands cupped together under the pillow, or when I sit somewhere on a porch, idly watching wind crossing a ripening field, and look down to see my hands nested in my lap as if asleep like two old dogs, it is not hard for me to believe they know. They remember all they have done, all that has happened to them, the ways in which they have been surprised or worked themselves free of desperate trouble, or lost their grip and so caused harm. It's not hard to believe they remember the heads patted, the hands shaken, the apples peeled, the hair braided, the wood split, the gears shifted, the flesh gripped and stroked, and that they convey their feelings to each other. *Barry Lopez*



The kitchen is the heart of the home. It's where you help your children with their homework, linger over coffee with a girlfriend or wine with your husband, read the paper, and where countless conversations take place. ... Think of the memories associated with your kitchen table, rolling out pie dough with your mother, doing school projects with your kids on winter afternoons, sharing a cup of tea with your grandmother or new neighbor, laying out warm tomatoes from the fall harvest. The kitchen table carries as many memories as a photo album. ... Choose one that can be passed down through generations, one made from real wood that will become lovingly worn and grooved after years of math homework, pumpkin carving, and family meals. *Jennifer Trainer Thompson*

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