

Things Our Mothers Told Us — I'm sure most of you remember your childhood, but probably not through the eyes of your mothers. However, you might remember some of the following iconic phrases our mothers used in the 1950's to get us to do what they told us, or to stop doing something we weren't supposed to be doing. All the while our mothers would stand there with hands on their hips, occasionally wagging their finger at us as they spoke.

- ~ Do you want me to give you something to cry about?
- ~ Don't get smart with me.
- ~ Just wait till your father gets home!
- ~ You'll eat it and you'll like it.
- ~ I don't care who started it.
- ~ What part of "no" don't you understand!
- ~ I might as well be talking to a brick wall.
- ~ Don't make me come in there.

If we dared to question any of these "Momisms," we would hear the ultimate phrase that would halt any objections before the words left her mouth: "Because I said so, that's why!"

And what would happen if you dared to question something your Mom said or if you "sassied" her? Let me provide a couple examples.

"You'll eat it and you'll like it" was often heard around our dinner table when we were faced with eating food we didn't like. My brother Tom simply hated peas and refused to eat them. He often mashed his food together so it might have looked like he had eaten his peas. But our eagle-eyed mother could see that green peas were still nestled in among the mashed potatoes or rice. Mom then would say "you will sit there until you finish all your food; I don't care how long it takes." Sound familiar to any of you?

Tom also recollected that Mom often served asparagus, another vegetable he did not like. Mom would remind him how important it was to eat vegetables. Because he still hadn't learned his lesson, he again tried the same tactic with the asparagus as he had used with the peas. Of course, it never worked, and he ended up sitting in front of the offending vegetable for hours on end, until Mom finally relented. Years later, when discussing these meal-time antics with our Mom, Tom remembers her saying that she also hated asparagus!

"I don't care who started it" was spoken at one of the most traumatic times in my young childhood. I must have been about 5, and my brother was 3. He and I got into some kind of an argument, and I bit him on the arm. Mom heard him crying, came running and saw the bitemark on his arm. For the one and only time in her life, she slapped me across the face. However, after I was grown, Mom told me that after I had fallen asleep that night, she came into my room and sat by my bed crying because of the punishment she had given me.

When you're reflecting on memories about what your own mother might have said to you as a child, always remember, as Charley Benetto once said: **"When you're looking at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know."**

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