

Johnny Reyes

Called Johnny · Born June 4, 2002 · Denver, Colorado

They are still here. This is a living obituary, not a death notice.

Questions they answered

31 of 78 questions answered. The ones they skipped are not here.

This is the full list. Every question they answered, with the answer they gave. Skipped questions stay out. The newspaper living obituary is made from these answers.

NAME

1. *Who is writing this, and who are you to them?*

Me. Johnny. Mom is on the porch if I stall.

2. *What should people call them?*

Johnny.

3. *What is their full name, if it is different?*

Johnny Reyes. The license says Jonathan. Nobody uses it.

4. *Where do they live now, and which cities still have their name on a mailbox?*

Denver. The Front Range on weekends. The porch is my mother's.

BEGINNING

5. *When were they born, and where?*

June 4, 2002. Denver, Colorado.

6. *Who raised them? Name those people.*

Elena Reyes. She did the whole thing.

7. *What were their parents' names -- including a mother's name before she married, if you have it?*

Elena Reyes. Put her first.

8. *Where did they grow up, and what did that place feel like?*

Denver. A small house. The porch light. Mountains if you looked west.

9. *Who did they grow up with -- sisters, brothers, cousins in the same house?*

Luis. He is younger. He already stole the map.

SCHOOL AND WORK

10. *What work did they do, or how did they spend their days?*

Warehouse lead during the week. Trails on the weekend. I showed up.

11. *What were they known for at work -- the thing a coworker would say without thinking?*

He showed up. Tess will say that. The Saturday shift is hers now.

LOVE

12. *Who do they love?*

Mom. Luis. Tess at the warehouse. The people who still show up.

13. *Who else belongs -- sisters, brothers, people they chose as family?*

Luis. Tess. That is the list.

14. *Is there a friend so close the story is wrong without them?*

Luis on the trail. Tess at work. Mom on the porch.

TEXTURE

15. *What did they love to do when nobody was watching?*

Walk. Cheap tacos after. Not talking.

16. *What food, music, team, or place would make a stranger know it was them?*

Cheap tacos. The dirt trail. The red jacket.

17. *What did they wear that was them -- a hat, a jacket, a ring, a color?*

The red jacket. Luis can have it if he actually wears it.

18. *Is there a place they want people to picture them -- a chair, a garden, a trail, a kitchen?*

The trail at late light. Or the porch with Mom. Not a clinic.

WHO THEY WERE

19. *If I sat next to them for an afternoon, what would I notice first?*

I do not make it complicated. I look at the mountains.

20. *How did they show love without saying the word?*

Showing up. The porch talks. I did not disappear.

21. *What were they like in a hard week -- quiet, joking, busy, still?*

Quiet. Then joking. I was not scared the whole time. Just some of the time.

PICTURES

22. *What photographs belong in the ten-minute film?*

The trail. The porch with Mom. Friends who still show up. No hospital. No machines.

23. *What should we leave out of the pictures?*

No hospital. No machines. The porch is enough. The trail is enough.

THE STORY**24.** *What should people remember?*

I showed up. Keep the porch light on. Tell Mom I was not scared on the trail.

25. *What do they want the people who love them to know, while they can still say it?*

I have six months, maybe more. I want the film finished while I can still argue about the order.

26. *Is there one sentence they want in the written story?*

The film is enough.

27. *If this story had to fit in four lines in a newspaper, what could not be cut?*

Johnny Reyes. Twenty-four. Elena's son. The trail. He is still here.

28. *What should this story not say?*

Do not put a clinic in it. Do not put a street number.

29. *What should Mom keep from the porch talks?*

That I was not scared the whole time. Just some of the time. The rest I was looking at the mountains.

30. *Who gets the trail pack?*

Luis. He already stole the map anyway. Tell him the red jacket is his if he actually wears it.

31. *Who should we call first?*

Tess at the warehouse. Tell her the Saturday shift is hers. Then Luis. Then nobody else unless they already knew.