Show and Tell

- What is it?

- Describe it: size, color, material, age, texture, use, etc.

- Why did you choose this object?

- When did it become part of your life?

- How did it become part of your life?

- What special feelings or memories do you have for/of this object?

- Tell the story

Show and Tell - Example 1

My special object is this pair of five-yen coins. The coins may be a little different than the one in your pocket or purse. They were given to me by a student about 26 years ago. Her name is Miyuki. At the time, I was teaching classes that prepared students for life and study in Canada. Because the students would be living in an English-speaking country, the classes were very intensive. I also helped the students when they had some trouble with the school.

The student who gave me the coins was from Nagano, even though our school was in Osaka. I remember that her mother was a nurse and a single mother. At the airport, the student thanked me for teaching her and gave me the coins. She explained that in Japan five-yen coins were “good luck” and she wanted me to have double luck. She finished her university studies in Vancouver and found a job there. She lived in Vancouver for about 15 years. About 7 or 8 years ago, she returned to Japan, and now lives in Nagano. We haven’t met, but we talk sometimes on Facebook. The coins are a nice reminder of my early days of teaching in Japan and how wonderful students can be.
Show and Tell - Example 2

My special possession is this watch. The watch, but not the band, is real gold. It’s an unusual design, too. It doesn’t use batteries. And you don’t need to wind it, either. It winds itself when you move your arm while you’re wearing it. Listen…

The watch was given to me by my father when I was young, maybe 9 or 10 years old. I was very excited, because while I had a Mickey Mouse watch before, I thought of that as a child’s watch. This was a grown-up watch.

Those years, my father had several businesses: a gas station and several pool halls (billiards). They were all in poor neighborhoods. At the pool halls, men who had no jobs spent their whole days there, gambling in hopes of getting enough money to pay their bills. Some of these men would sometimes borrow money from my father. Of course, sometimes they could not pay him back, and instead of money offered him various objects: a radio, a TV, even a gun! One day he brought home a gun. I remember it well, because while my mother and father were arguing about it, I was playing with it as if it were my new toy! I never saw the gun again!

This watch was one of those objects. He gave me the watch and we went together to buy a new watchband for it. When I got married (the first time!) and moved to a new condo, it got packed in a box and was almost forgotten. However, when I moved to Japan, I found the watch again! I brought it with me and sometimes wear it and remember the good times I had with my father when I was young.