

Read the poem and then do these exercises to check your understanding.

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | The poet found a picture of his mother aged 17. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | He was with his mother in the photo. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | His mother was riding a horse in the photo. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | The picture was in good condition. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | When he saw the photo he recognised features of his own face. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | He was amazed because it was a picture of himself. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | The woman in the photo was wearing special riding clothes. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | He realised that he looks similar to his mother when she was young. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: matching

Match the lines from the poem with their meaning and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

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|--------|---|----|---|
| 1..... | She is wearing protection on her head. | a. | And I thought, just for a second, that you were me. |
| 2..... | She is holding a horse. | b. | The tight riding hat hid your hair |
| 3..... | The picture is old, so it was taken a long time ago. | c. | your hand a fist under its huge jaw |
| 4..... | The poet looks strikingly like the person in the picture. | d. | and smiling, not yet my mother |
| 5..... | The woman in the picture is the poet's mother before he was born. | e. | although I was clearly already your child |
| 6..... | The inherited resemblance between the poet and his mother is unmistakeable. | f. | the sky was grained by the old film stock |

Discussion

Did you enjoy the poem?

What kind of photos do you like looking at?

Have you ever seen photos of your parents when they were younger? Did they look like you?

What's your favourite photo?