

LUCOZADE

Narration and relationship
between characters.

BED

Narration and relationship
between characters.

KEEPING ORCHIDS

Narration and relationship
between characters.

Narrator?

The narrator is a young girl visiting her mother in hospital. The language of the poem shows us that she is vulnerable, afraid and overwhelmed by the experience. At the end, she takes on the mental burden of the illness to relieve the mother. Jackie Kay is the young girl.

Relationship between characters

The girl clearly has a good relationship with the mum as she is terrified about losing her. The girl must take on the adult role of turning away guests and removing the gifts as the mother is not well enough to do this herself.

Narrator?

The narrator is an old Scottish woman confined to her bed due to old age. She complains about the lack of excitement in her life and is bitter about the fact her body has let her down. She likes to complain and is mainly negative.

Relationship between characters

The woman is conflicted about whether to be grateful to her daughter or criticise her for not helping more. While the mother acknowledges the burden she is, she also complains about a lot of the daughter's decisions. We get the impression they have nothing to say to each other anymore and the relationship is quite strained.

Narrator?

Jackie Kay narrates this poem about her own personal experience. We get the impression the speaker is strained and anxious about the relationship with her mother. She struggles to accept the lack of connection but eventually comes to terms with this.

Relationship between characters

The relationship is very strained and uncomfortable as we see Kay's birth mother refuse to open up. Kay is trying desperately to form a relationship but come to accept that she doesn't know this woman and never will. The mother appears anxious and possibly guilty in the poem.

DIVORCE

Narration and relationship
between characters.

**MY GRANDMOTHER'S
HOUSES**

Narration and relationship
between characters.

GAP YEAR

Narration and relationship
between characters.

Narrator?

The narrator is a young girl who has fallen out with her parents. The language in the poem suggests she is young but is trying to sound grown up so that she is taken seriously. She is very melodramatic and self-centred which is shown through her repetitive use of "I" throughout the poem. She doesn't care about coming across as cruel to her parents and seems to whine about silly things.

Relationship between characters

The daughter and her parents seem to have a negative relationship. The girl becomes irritated by her parents' actions but they don't take it seriously as they fail to realise how upset she actually is. They mock her attitude and she retorts with cruel comments showing their relationship to have become corrosive, so much so that the girl wants to separate from them.

Narrator?

The narrator is a young girl who is reflecting on her memories of her grandmother. The girl reflects on how fascinated she was with the grandmother's links to the past. She also remembers her excitement in the grandmother's new modern flat. We also see her excitement in visiting the expensive house her gran cleans. She comes across as quite childish in her fascinations and unaware of class differences.

Relationship between characters

The girl is clearly very close to her grandmother and is fascinated by her previous life. The grandmother tries to prepare the girl for life by taking her to church and showing her how to work. While the girl is imaginative and unburdened, the grandmother has a very serious and mature take on life. The girl is also fascinated by the modern world but the grandmother seems set in her ways.

Narrator?

The narrator is Jackie Kay as an adult. She shares her excitement over her son being born 18 years ago then goes on to show how much she misses him in the present day. We see the speaker isn't coping well with her son's departure and get a sense of her anxiety and pride.

Relationship between characters

Kay and Matthew are clearly very close. She expresses her longing to meet him as a baby and her upset when he leaves on his gap year. While he is also fond of his mother, we get the feeling he is less inclined to think of her as he craves his own independence. We see the clear bond between mother and son as she reveals how proud she is of him despite his desire to leave.