

4 line stanzas apart from last line - sense of freedom after constriction of hospital. Opens with confessional tone.

Up until 1980s, Lucozade was seen as an aid to recovery from sickness - created as a remedy to restore energy.

Transferred epithet - conveys the daughter's emotions - flowers also a typical gift for invalids.

Mother rejects stereotypical trapping of illness - implies the illness is severe as it reflects the mother's fading strength.

### Lucozade

Suggests distance as though they're separated by illness.

Emphasises speaker's fear and age

My mum is on a **high bed** next to **sad chrysanthemums**.  
'Don't bring flowers, **they only wilt and die.**  
**I am scared my mum is going to die** on the bed **next to the sad chrysanthemums**.

Suggests lack of energy/vitality

Metaphor - Lucozade reminds her of her youth and being given the drink when ill.

Word choice - continues idea of light going out/vitality ebbing going from opinionated to weak.

Repetition emphasises her fear - suggests her thoughts are going round and round in her head - simple symmetrical structure - youth.

**She nods off and her eyes go back in her head.**  
Next to her bed is a bottle of Lucozade.  
'**Orange nostalgia**, that's what that is,' she says.  
'Don't bring Lucozade either,' then **fades**.

Metaphor - group of insects/pests - she feels objectified and gawped at.

Idea of doctors telling half truths, medical euphemisms when mother wants to face illness head on.

'The whole day was a blur, **a swarm of eyes**.  
**Those doctors with their white lies**.  
**Did you think you could cheer me up with a Woman's Own?**  
Don't bring magazines, **too much about size.**

Magazines about dieting/being slim - mother is gaunt/emaciated through illness.

Rhetorical question - magazine can't bring happiness - another stereotypical symbol of illness.

\* Alliteration of "b" + "y" sounds.  
\* Internal rhyme of "gin" + "tin"  
\* List of luxuries.  
\* Repetition of "the"  
All serve to emphasise the grandiose indulgence, recklessness, naughtiness and life-affirming nature of the request.

Ironic link to alcohol mum asks for.

My mum wakes up, **groggy** and low.  
'What I want to know,' she says, 'is this:  
**where's the big brandy, the generous gin, the Bloody Mary, the biscuit tin, the chocolate fingers, the dirty big meringue?**

Emphasises speaker's youth and inexperience of life - contrasts with her mother's experience - we get the sense that the mum's situation bewilders her.

**I am sixteen; I've never tasted a Bloody Mary.**  
'Tell your father to bring a luxury,' says she.  
'**Grapes have no imagination, they're just green.**  
**Tell him: stop the neighbours coming.**

Boring - just like her days in hospital.

Ambiguous request - too ill to receive visitors or just sick of the swarm of eyes.

I clear her cupboard in **Ward 10B, Stobhill Hospital**.  
**I leave, bags full, Lucozade, grapes, oranges, sad chrysanthemums under my arms, weighted down.** I turn round, **wave** with her flowers.

Like an address - stayed there for a long time or permanently.

Implies a final goodbye or last look.

My mother, on **her high hospital bed, waves back**.  
**Her face is light and radiant, dandelion hours.**  
**Her sheets billow and whirl. She is beautiful.**  
Next to her **the empty table is divine**.

Energy has returned - has been revived not by the Lucozade but by the removal of it - mother's rejection of the expected invalid role.

I **carry the orange nostalgia home singing an old song.**

Metaphor - sense of lightness and beauty but also of fragility - little time remaining - easily blown away.

### Jackie Kay

Continues image of heaven/angelic transcendence - contrast to negative tone of 1st stanza - clearing of table removes trappings of sickness.

Repetition - given positive tone - carrying these items away has revitalised the mother in a way Lucozade never could.

Angelic connotations - simple sentence suggests this is a revelation to the speaker.

Joyful and happy connotations - tone of poem has changed dramatically.

Personification/transferred epithet - implied criticism of visitors/father who bring such stereotypical marks of illness.

List of stereotypical markers of illness - unburdening mum.

Repetition but tone is now optimistic

Daughter has unburdened her mother and now carries the weight.

Metaphorically heavy with sadness, grief, emotion.

Appearance is now positive - optimism now that she has been unburdened.

### Themes

- \* Family Relationships
- \* Death