

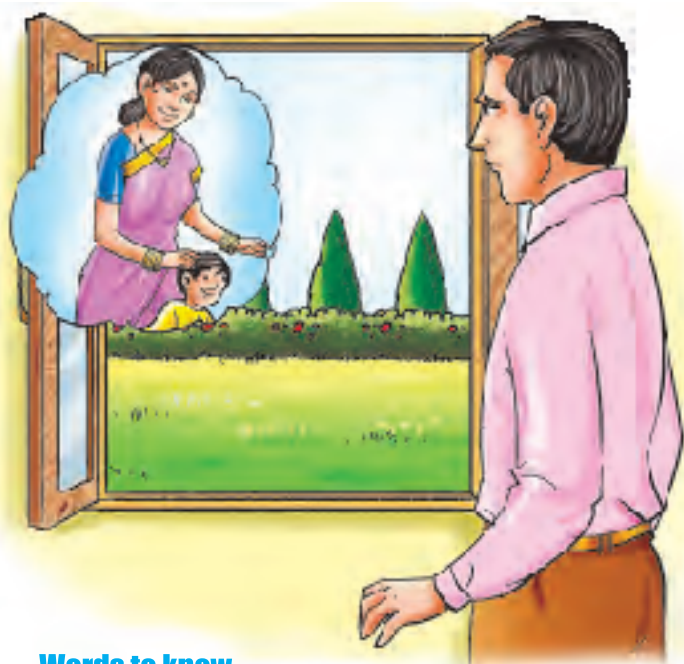
# My Mother

## Warm-up Session

The poet gives a vivid picture of a little boy who has lost his mother. The picture of his association with his mother haunts him whenever he looks at the garden through the open window.

I cannot remember my mother,  
only sometime in the midst of my play  
a tune seems to hover over my playthings,  
the tune of some song that she used  
to hum while rocking my cradle.

I cannot remember my mother,  
but when in the early autumn morning  
the smell of the shiuli flowers floats in the air,  
the scent of the morning service in the temple  
comes to me as the scent of my mother.



I cannot remember my mother,  
only when from my bedroom window I send my  
eyes into the blue of the distant sky,  
I feel that the stillness of my mother's gaze  
on my face has spread all over the sky.

—Rabindranath Tagore

## Words to know

**midst** = middle; **hover** = float, drift; **hum** = sing; **cradle** = crib; **shiuli** = small, white or orange flower that blooms in autumn; **scent** = perfume, good smell; **distant** = far away; **stillness** = quietness, tranquility; **gaze** = look, stare; **spread** = extend, stretch.

## EXERCISE ZONE

### Lesson Insight

#### Test Your Comprehension Skill

##### A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ'S)

Tick (✓) the correct options:

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ seems to hover over my playthings.  
(a) song  (b) scent  (c) butterfly
2. The smell of the \_\_\_\_\_ flowers floats in the air.  
(a) rose  (b) shiuli  (c) jasmine
3. Comes to me as the \_\_\_\_\_ of my mother.  
(a) touch  (b) voice  (c) scent

##### B. Answer the following questions:

1. Why does the poet say, 'I cannot remember my mother'?
2. In which season do the shiuli flowers bloom?
3. When does the poet feel the stillness of his mother's gaze?

##### C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. The poet has lost his mother at a very early age.
2. The poet can still remember his mother very well.
3. The shiuli flowers in the garden reminds the poet of his mother.

##### D. Explain the following stanzas:

- (i) 'The tune of some song that she used to hum while rocking my cradle.'
- (ii) 'The scent of the morning service in the temple comes to me as the scent of my mother.'

#### Sharpen Your Vocabulary

##### A. Give antonyms for each of the following words:

Column 'A'

Column 'B'

1. remember: \_\_\_\_\_
2. early: \_\_\_\_\_
3. floats: \_\_\_\_\_
4. distant: \_\_\_\_\_
5. stillness: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Give two synonyms for each of the following words:**

- 1. tune \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. hover \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. smell \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. gaze \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. spread \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Use the following words and make meaningful sentences of your own:**

- 1. hover : \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. playthings : \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. autumn : \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. distant : \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. gaze : \_\_\_\_\_

**Time for Activities**

**A. Give a brief summary of the poem.**

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**B. We love our mother because of her certain qualities. What qualities of your mother attract you the most? Write briefly.**

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