

Liverpool

Characterisation

The First Woman in my Life: Levi Tafari

Read these famous quotes about mothers. Which do you think Levi Tafari would agree with?

- a) There is only one pretty child in the world and every mother has it.
- Chinese proverb
- b) My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it.
- Mark Twain
- c) It's at times like these I wish I'd listened to my mother.
Why? What did she say?
I don't know. I never listened.
- Douglas Adams
- d) Men are what their mothers made them.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson
- e) Parents are the bones on which children sharpen their teeth.
- Peter Ustinov
- f) If you have never been hated by your child, you have never been a parent.
- Bette Davis
- g) *Mother*: the most beautiful word on the lips of mankind.
- Kahlil Gibran

a) Look at these adjectives. Write them in the boxes below. (You don't have to use all the words.)



Superwoman Intelligent Proud
 Strong Confident Annoying
 Hard-working Embarrassing Fussy
 Strict Lovely
 Nagging Affectionate Wise
 Creative Practical Generous



Levi's mother	Your mother

b) Can you think of extra adjectives?

c) Is your mother the same as Levi's ?

3

She cooks, she cleans
She does everything



Here are some jobs. Which do mothers usually do? And which do fathers usually do?



Job	Fathers, mothers or both?
Looking after children when they are ill	
Cooking	
Cleaning	
Ironing	
Telling children off	
Changing childrens' clothes	
Helping when the children have a problem	
Shopping	
Taking children to school	
Making children feel happy	
Decorating	

How many jobs do you think are mother's jobs? Why?

Do you think Levi's father did any of these jobs?

Do you agree that 'A woman's work is never done' ?



4

You can have ten aunties and scores of lovers
But remember you only have one mother

Do you think mothers are more important than other relationships?

5

I remember when someone pointed the finger
Mum said I was Black, beautiful and I had a culture

She always made sure we went to school
Because in this life you can't be a fool
You see people will ride you like a mule
It was mum who taught me to be cool.

What do you think happened to Levi to make him say these things?

Are mothers usually cool? Do you think Levi has always thought his mother was cool?

6

She worked her fingers to the bone
To provide us with a decent home

Why did Levi's mother work so hard?

7

If it was not for you then I would not exist
So here it comes for you a kiss

How do you think Levi's mother would feel if she read this poem?

Would you like to say anything like this to your mother?

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Characterisation

Mother Under Threat: Levi Tafari

Ozone Friendly Poem: Levi Tafari

Both these passionate poems are concerned with the often harmful effects that humans have on the Earth.

This is our mother called EARTH
She is fertile,
Conceives and gives birth.
Now when humans came along
They treated her wrong,
Because they did not know her true worth.



1. In the poems, the Earth is a character. Imagine that you are the Earth that Levi Tafari talks about. How do you feel about the humans living on you?

Write a short message which will appear in the sky for everyone to see.

A large, empty rectangular box intended for writing a message to be seen in the sky.

2. Imagine the Earth in 20 years' time.

a) How do you think it will look? Are you optimistic, or pessimistic? Your teacher is going to give you some pictures about the environment. Choose some pictures to help you talk about it.

b) After reading his poems, which pictures do you think Levi Tafari would choose?

3.

Words can be creative
Words can sound great
We can use words to instruct
And to communicate,
These words are not destructive
Violating a tree,
Because
This poem is OZONE FRIENDLY

'The pen is mightier than the sword'.
Do you think Levi Tafari agrees with this?



4.

My words take shape
they are organised
they won't burn the EARTH's skin
like pesticides
they're not manufactured using CFCs.
Because
This poem is OZONE FRIENDLY.

You have 20 minutes to save humankind! Prepare arguments to give to the Earth that you know the damage you are doing, and you are willing to change, and help make things better.