

## Grandmother

How much time did your grandmother spend with you when you were a baby?

How much time do you spend with your grandmother now?

What do you talk about with your grandmother?

How often do you talk with your grandmother?

What does your grandmother usually do throughout a day?

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## **Grandmother / Sameeneh Shirazie**

I hadn't asked her much, just how she felt, and she told me all about her day, and how she'd washed the sheets, and how she could not understand why the towel got so heavy when it was wet. She'd also sunned the mattresses, such tired bones and so much to do, and my eyes filled with tears when I thought of how I was simply going to say "Salaam" and walk away and so many words would have been trapped inside her. I would have passed by as if what lay between those bedclothes was just old life and not really my grandmother.

Ask	שאל
much	הרבה
just	רק
how	איך
Feel/felt	מרגיש
Tell/told	תגיד לי
about	על
day	יום
wash	לשטוף
sheets	סַדִּין
understand	להבין
why	למה
towel	מגבת
Get/got	לקבל
heavy	כבד
wet	רטוב
sun	לַחשׂוף לְשָׁמֶש
mattress	מזרן
tired	עייף
bone	עצם
eye	עין
fill	למלא
tears	דמעות
Think/thought	לחשוב
simply	פשוט
say	להגיד
Walk away	לעזוב
words	מלים
trapped	לקוד
inside	בפנים
Pass by	לעבור
lay	לשכב
between	בין
bedclothes	מצעים
old	זקן
life	חיים
really	בעמת

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## Basic Understanding

English	Hebrew
washed the sheets	כיבסה את הסדינים
towel	מגבת
sunned the mattresses	אווררה את המזרנים
tired bones	עצמות עייפות / גוף עייף
filled with tears	התמלאו בדמעות
trapped	לכוד, כלוא
passby	חלף ליד

# Handouts Exercise B Page 16

## Basic Understanding

- 1. After cleaning the bedroom, my mother *sunned the mattresses* and *washed the sheets*.
- 2. I came out wet from the pool, and I looked for my *towel*.
- 3. The movie was so sad, so my eyes *filled with tears*.
- 4. He felt *trapped* in prison.
- 5. After the school trip, I felt my body was such a *tired bones*.
- 6. Every time I *pass by* my friend's house, I smile to myself.

Handouts Exercise C

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## Basic Understanding

#### Grandmother:

old life

sun the mattresses

tired bones

towel

trapped insider her

wash the sheets

## Granddaughter:

filled with tears

pass by

walk away

Exercise D

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## Basic Understanding

Grandmother	has	words trapped inside her.
She	hung	the towels (out to dry).
Granddaughter's	needed	a rest.
Granddaughter's eyes	filled with	tears when she thought of her grandmother.
Her eyes	chores is	to sun mattresses.
Her tired bones		

- 1. Her eyes *filled with tears* when she thought of her grandmother.
- 2. One of the grandmother's chores is to sun the mattresses.
- 3. Her tired bones needed a rest.
- 4. She hung the towels out to dry.
- 5. She has words trapped inside her.



- 1. A girl / young woman / the granddaughter (who is describing a visit with her grandmother)
- 2. Her grandmother
- 3. She washes the sheets and she suns the mattresses.
- 4. We learn that she:
  - spends her day doing housework, which is very tiring.
  - is lonely.
- wants to share her thoughts and feelings with someone (and was

perhaps waiting for the opportunity to do so when the speaker / her

granddaughter passed by).

# Analysis and Interpretation

**Setting** refers to the place and time in which the events in a story or a poem occur.

- 1. The poem takes place (is set) in the grandmother's room, (possibly) later in the day (when she has finished her chores).
- 2. No, the speaker did not intend to stop and have a real conversation with her grandmother.

OR: No, she was just passing by and asked her grandmother how she felt.

The words that helped are: "I was simply / going to say 'Salaam' and walk away."

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## Analysis and Interpretation

3. Her eyes fill with tears because she feels guilty that she did not have time to talk to her grandmother.

#### OR:

Her eyes fill with tears because she has never aksed how her grandmother spends her days.

#### OR:

Her eyes fill with tears because she realizes that her grandmother wanted to talk to someone.

# Analysis and Interpretation

The **theme** is the central philosophical idea or message of a story or poem. We usually find the theme by asking, "What is this story / poem about?"

4. We should not take our family members, especially grandparents, for granted, and we should take the time to listen to them and spend time with them.

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## Analysis and Interpretation

5. The women have to do the housework.

OR:

They are probably housewives

OR:

They have to take care of their homes and their children.

6. Yes, the grandmother's life probably reflects the life of grandmothers in many areas of the world.

OR:

No, most women today make their own choices.

OR:

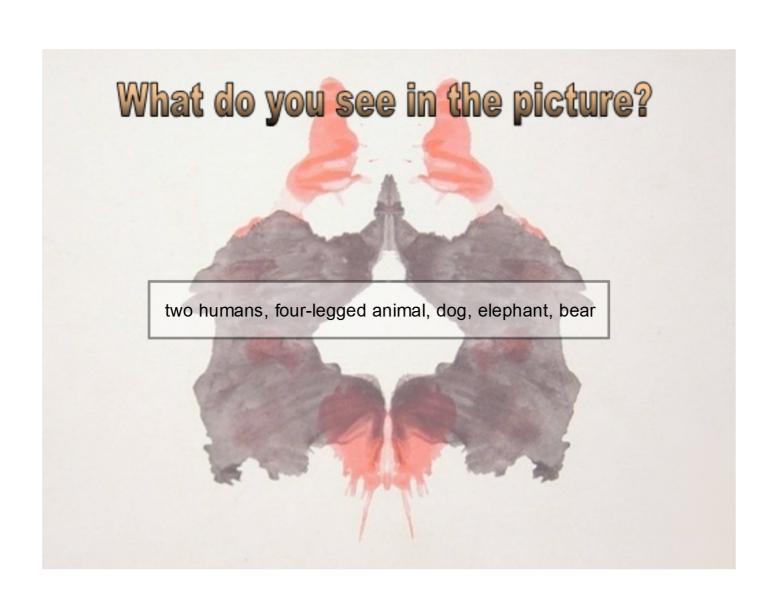
No, while some may choose to stay at home, others work in their careers that interest them.

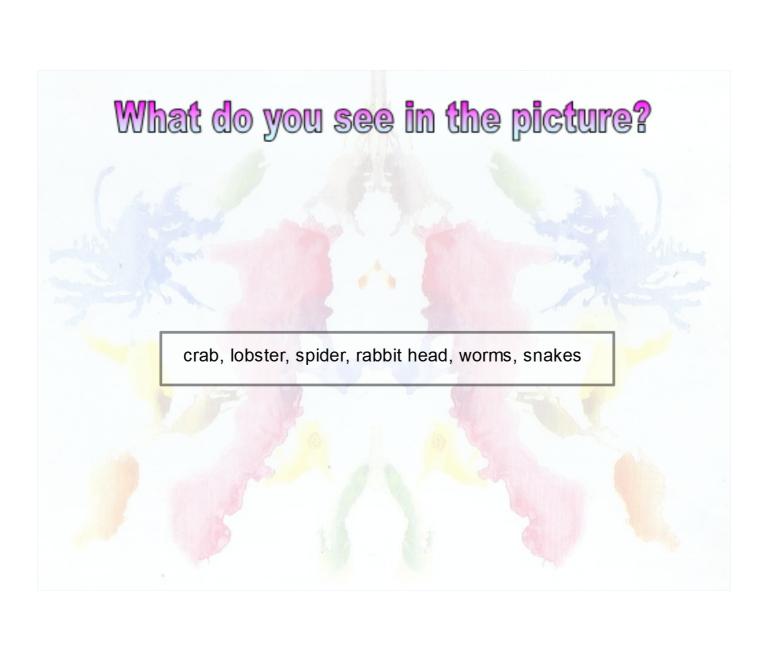
## Analysis and Interpretation

The **Tone** of a poem is created by the speaker's attitude and emotions. The tone can be playful, serious, angry, nostalgic etc.

Caring	אכפתיות
Sorrow	צער
Love	אַהָבָה
Regret	מָרָטָה
Relief	הקלה

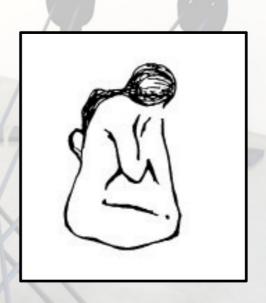
# What do you see in the picture? bat, butterfly, moth





# What do you see in the pictures?







Two shoe salespeople were sent to Africa to open up new markets. After the first one arrived, he sent an email to his company saying:

"I'm returning on the next flight. Can't sell shoes here. Everyone goes barefoot."



The second salesperson arrived and also sent an email to the office.
What do you think he wrote?



"The sales are unlimited. Nobody wears shoes here!"







Different people view things differently. That is, they have different perspectives. The ability to identify different points of view is called **DISTINGUISHING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.** 

Handouts

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How are mother and grandmother looking at the baby?

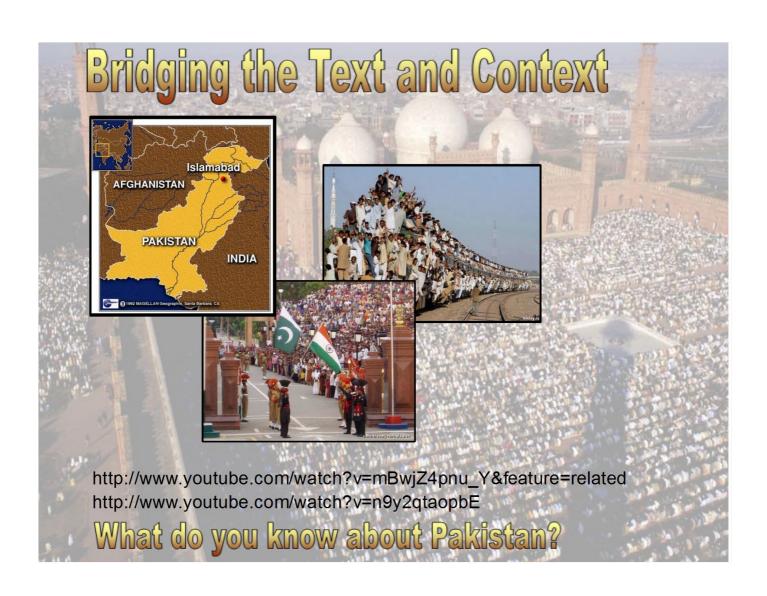
How do their perspectives differ?



Mother	loves	the baby.
Grandmother	thinks	about the baby's future.
	wants	the baby to be smart.
		the baby to be successful.
	İ	the baby to be happy.

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- 1. Her attitude is indifferent / loving / sorrowful / caring.
- 2. The speaker looks at her grandmother from a different perspective. She understands that she has related to her as just another old person and not with the love she should show to her grandmother.
- 3. The grandmother wants company / someone to talk to.



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# Bridging the Text and Context

### Use the phrases below to write your bridging task:

The information above tells me that ....

The poem is about...

The message of the poem is that...

In the poem the poet tells us that ...

The connection between the above description and the poem is that ...

## **Post Reading Activity**

#### Use the phrases below to write your post reading task:

1. Dear Grandmother/Grandfather,

I am writing this letter to tell you that...

After reading the poem "Grandmother" I understood that...

The message of the poem is that ....

I hope that you ...

2. Dear diary,

Yesterday I met my grandmother. I saw that she...

After reading the poem "Grandmother" I understood that...

The message of the poem is that ...

My grandmother was ...

I promise to visit my grandmother ....

Handouts

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3. Dear Sammeneh Shirazie,

I read your poem "Grandmother". I want to tell you that ...

I also have a grandmother. Her name is...

She works ...

After reading the poem "Grandmother" I understood that...

The message of the poem is that ...

Best,