

## Before You Were Mine

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The following questions are designed to help you explore the poem in detail. You must then present your findings to the class, not merely read the answers to the questions.

1. Explain the content of the poem.
2. What is the significance of the title?
3. Explore, using quotations, Duffy's attitude to her mother's life.
4. Comment on how the poet creates photographs/snapshots of her mother's life.
5. Look at the following quotations and comment on the glamour of her mother's life:
  - "Marilyn"
  - "In the ballroom with the thousand eyes"
  - "red shoes, relics"
  - "you sparkle and waltz"
6. How does the use of first person enhance your understanding of the character of the mother?
7. What do you think the poem suggests about being a mother?
8. Share any other observations you have made about the poem.