

Mother

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

1. Explain the content of the poem.
2. Explore, using quotations, the relationship between the speaker and his mother.
3. Look at the following quotations and comment on how the mother provides the speaker with security:
 - a. "back to base"
 - b. "anchor"
 - c. "your fingers still pinch/ the last one-hundredth of an inch"
 - d. "an endless sky"
 - e. "second pair of hands"
4. How does Armitage create pace and rhythm?
5. What does the poem suggest about leaving home?
6. Although the poem is written in the second person, addressing the mother – what impression do you get of the I?
7. What do you think is the most striking line of the poem and why?
8. Share any other observations you have made about the poem.

The Mother

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