

# My Mother



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.

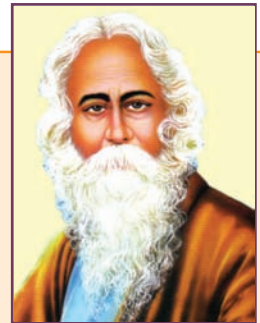
I cannot remember my mother,  
only when from my bedroom window I send my  
eyes into the blue of the distant sky,  
I feel that the stillness of my mother's gaze  
on my face has spread all over the sky.

- **Rabindranath Tagore**



## About the poet

**Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)** is popularly known as Vishwa Kavi and Gurudev. He was the founder of *Shantiniketan*, an experimental school. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature for his *Gitanjali*, the *Song of Offerings*. Each of his poems reflects Indian vision and love towards his Mother Land. He is considered the Voice of Indian Heritage and Spiritualism.



## Glossary

hover (v)	:	remain in the air
shiuli (n)	:	small, white or orange flowers that bloom in autumn
scent (n)	:	perfume/good smell



## Comprehension

### Answer the following questions.

- How does the poet feel the presence of his mother?
- What do you understand from the statement – ‘I cannot remember my mother’?
- Does the poem convey sadness? If yes, pick out the suggestive expressions.
- What imagery do you find in each stanza? To which sense does it appeal to you?

Stanza	Images	Sense it appeals to
1	Mother rocking the cradle and singing a song	ears
2		
3		

- Read the poem ‘My Mother’ again and complete the table.

Questions	Stanza 1	Stanza 2	Stanza 3
Who are the persons involved ?			
Where does the action take place?			
What is the mother associated with?			
What is the theme?			

- We all love our mother, don't we? We love her because of certain qualities. Think and write about her qualities.

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- How would you choreograph the first stanza? (Group work)
  - What settings do you arrange?
  - What are the characters and their actions?
  - What is the sequence of actions?

Stanza	Action of the main character	Action of the supporting team / characters
1		
2		
3		

**Each group may choreograph different stanzas of the poem.**