

“WHERE I’M FROM” BY MELANIE POONAI

JUST THINK ...!!!

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? AND YOUR PARENTS? AND YOUR GRANDPARENTS?

1. READ THE POEM “WHERE I’M FROM” WRITTEN BY MELANIE POONAI. THIS WRITER WAS A WINNER OF FOYLE YOUNG POETS

I am a life filled with **colour**,
From the chocolate brown that is my skin.
I am from the sunshine yellow of my mother’s laugh,
From the red and white of my brother’s
favourite football shirt. I am from the crisp
new white pages of a book. From the miserable
grey of the street I live on. I am from green,
pink and yellow; My garden in summer
filled with flowers, From the terrifying black
of the nightmares that haunt me.
I am from the ginger orange of my buried cat,
From the blue and gold of my ever-shot school tie.
I am from the dark oak of my grandmother’s coffin,
From the golden “Aum” pendant around my neck.
I am from every pink scar etched into my body,
From the red, orange and brown of the hot curry.
I am from every identical **colour** of the twins I love,
From the blue and green of a hospital ward.
I am from all that has happened,
And all that will be.



Tip

Notice the spelling of the word “colour” in this poem. This is the British spelling. Many other words that end in -or in American English end in -our in British English, like flavour, neighbour, favour, labour.

2. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.



ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FROM THE POEM CONSIDERING THAT MELANIE POONAI IS THE MAIN CHARACTER. THEN COMPARE YOUR ANSWERS WITH A PARTNER AND SHARE THEM WITH YOUR CLASS.

- A. WHERE DOES SHE LIVE?
- B. WHAT DOES SHE LOOK LIKE?
- C. IS HER CAT ALIVE?
- D. WHAT IS HER BROTHER’S FAVORITE SPORT?

E. IS HER MOTHER ALIVE?

F. CAN YOU DEDUCE WHERE SHE IS FROM?

G. WRITE DOWN ALL THE FAMILY MEMBERS SHE MENTIONS IN THIS POEM.

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