

The Living Photograph

by Jackie Kay

When interpreting and analysing a poem, we need to first know the poet's background so that we are better able to relate it to what he or she may be trying to convey.



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/events/enq8gw>

About the Poet

Jackie Kay was born on November 9 1961 in Edinburgh, Scotland to a Scottish mother and a Nigerian father. She was adopted at birth to white Scottish parents, John and Helen Kay, who raised her in Glasgow to have strong ideas and to be firm in her convictions. The grandmother in the poem was Jackie Kay's adoptive Scottish grandmother. The experience of being adopted by and growing up within a white family had inspired her to write poetry.