

Final question (8 marks) model answers

Divorce by Jackie Kay

1. Key similarities

- The poems are all about the narrator's parents
- The poems are all sad

2. Printed poem (Divorce)

- "Mother, you never, ever said a kind word"
- This is pointed at her mum and shows she is sad because her mum isn't nice to her.

3. Other poem/s

- From Lucozade, "I am scared my mum is going to die"
- She's talking about her mum and it shows that she is sad and worried.
- From Keeping Orchids, "I have rearranged the upset orchids with troubled hands".
- The word "upset" tells us that she doesn't feel that she is sad because she hasn't got the emotional connection from her mother that she was hoping for.

1. Key similarities

- Divorce, Keeping Orchids and Lucozade are all about a parent and child relationship
- They all deal with sadness

2. Printed poem (Divorce)

- “Mother, you never, ever said a kind word”
- This shows us not only that it is a mother-child relationship but also that the child is upset. She does not have a good relationship with her mother.

3. Other poem/s

- In Lucozade, it says: “I am scared my mum is going to die”
- The child in the poem is frightened for her mother’s life and is sad that death could be an outcome.
- In Keeping Orchids, it says, “The orchids my mother gave me”.
- This shows that the poem is about a mother and is from a child’s perspective. In the poem the orchids are important to her because her mother gave her them.

1. Key similarities

- The poems are written from a child's point of view
- They all deal with the narrator's feelings about her parents/her mum

2. Printed poem (Divorce)

- "I don't want to be your child. All you do is shout"
- This shows the narrator is unhappy with her parents and she thinks they don't treat her well.

3. Other poem/s

- In Lucozade, it says she is "weighted down" by all the things she has to carry home for her mum.
- This tells she feels like looking after her mum is a burden and her mum being in hospital is making her sad.
- In Keeping Orchids, it says: "the closed ones did not open"
- Here she is talking about the flowers not opening up, but she is also talking about her mum who she felt didn't open up to her when they met for the first time and she felt disappointed.