

Have you ever seen any photos of your parents when they were younger? Did they look like you?

Do this preparation exercise first and then read the poem.

### Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–g next to the numbers 1–7.

- |        |  |    |            |
|--------|--|----|------------|
| 1..... | special trousers for riding                      | a. | riding hat |
| 2..... | you wear this on your head if you get on a horse | b. | waist      |
| 3..... | the front part of the lower leg                  | c. | halter     |
| 4..... | part of the lower face                           | d. | fist       |
| 5..... | this is put on a horse's head to lead it         | e. | shin       |
| 6..... | a hand with the fingers closed                   | f. | jodhpurs   |
| 7..... | the narrow part of the body above the hips       | g. | jaw        |

### Not Yet My Mother by Owen Sheers

Yesterday I found a photo  
of you at seventeen,  
holding a horse and smiling,  
not yet my mother.

The tight riding hat hid your hair,  
and your legs were still the long shins of a boy's.  
You held the horse by the halter,  
your hand a fist under its huge jaw.

The blown trees were still in the background  
and the sky was grained by the old film stock,  
but what caught me was your face,  
which was mine.

And I thought, just for a second, that you were me.  
But then I saw the woman's jacket,  
nipped at the waist, the ballooned jodhpurs,  
and of course the date, scratched in the corner.

All of which told me again,  
that this was you at seventeen, holding a horse  
and smiling, not yet my mother,  
although I was clearly already your child.

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