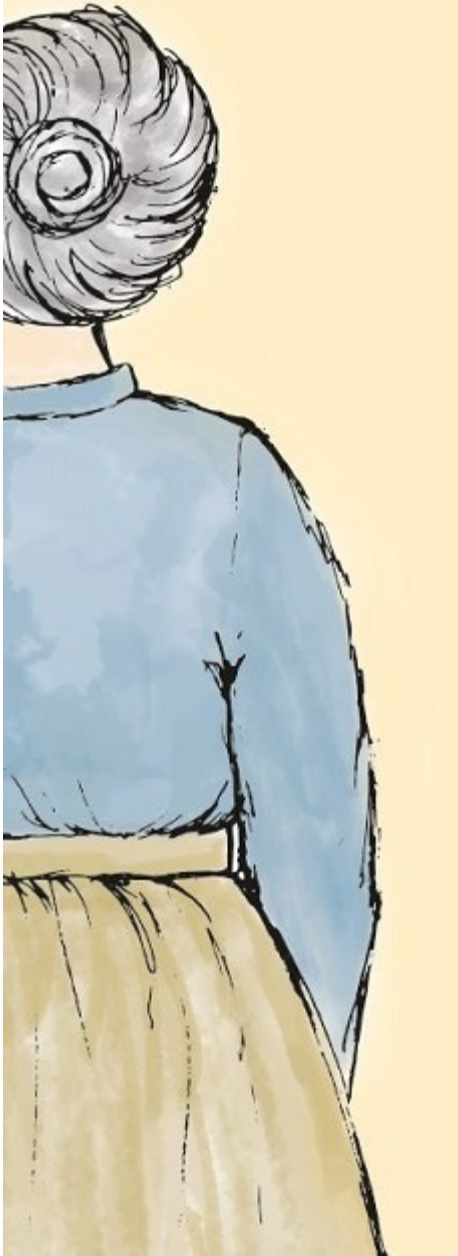


1



Grannie

I stayed with her when I was six then went
To live elsewhere when I was eight years old.
For ages I remembered her faint scent
Of lavender, the way she'd never scold
No matter what I'd done, and most of all
The way her smile seemed, somehow, to enfold
My whole world like a warm, protective shawl.

I knew that I was safe when she was near,
She was so tall, so wide, so large, she would
Stand mountainous between me and my fear,
Yet oh, so gentle, and she understood
Every hope and dream I ever had.
She praised me lavishly when I was good,
But never punished me when I was bad.

Years later war broke out and I became
A soldier and was wounded while in France.
Back home in hospital, still very lame,
I realised suddenly that circumstance
Had brought me close to that small town where she
Was living still. And so I seized the chance
To write and ask if she could visit me.

She came. And I still vividly recall
The shock that I received when she appeared
That dark cold day. Huge grannie was so small!
A tiny, frail, old lady. It was weird.
She hobbled through the ward to where I lay
And drew quite close and, hesitating, peered.
And then she smiled: and love lit up the day.

2

1. **Find and copy one** word from the first verse that shows that the poet's grannie made him feel safe when he was a boy.

1 mark

2. How did the poet's grannie react when he behaved badly?

1 mark

3. The poet describes his grannie as standing *mountainous between me and my fear*. This makes her sound big and powerful.

What other impressions do you get of his grannie in the same verse?

Give **two** impressions.

1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

4. What was **one** effect of the poet getting injured in the war?

1 mark

5. Look at the verse beginning: *Years later ...*

Find and **copy** a group of words that means the same as 'took the opportunity'.

1 mark

6. What does the poet ask his grannie to do?

1 mark

7. *She came. And I still **vividly recall** ...*

What do the words *vividly recall* mean?

2 marks

8. Explain what the poet finds *weird* about his grannie in the last verse.

2 marks

9. *She hobbled through the ward to where I lay
And drew quite close and, hesitating, peered.*

Why does she hesitate?

1 mark

10. What is **one** thing that did **not** change about the grannie as she got older?

1 mark

11. Look at the last verse, beginning: *She came.*

Find and **copy** a group of words that shows that his grannie makes a difference to the poet during her visit.

1 mark

12. The experience in the last line could best be described as...

Tick **one**.

amusing.

shocking.

puzzling.

comforting.

1 mark

13. Number the following sentences from 1-5 to show the order in which they happen in the poem.

The first one has been done for you.

The poet arrives in France.

The poet lives with his grannie.

The poet is injured.

The poet's grannie visits him.

The poet writes to his grannie.

1 mark

14. The poet describes different stages of his life.

Tick the **two** verses that are mainly about the poet's **adult life**.

Verse 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Verse 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Verse 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Verse 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1 mark