



# The Photograph

-Shirley Toulson



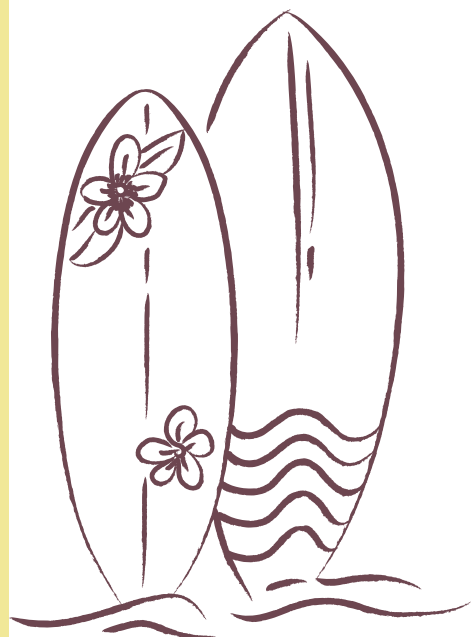
-Alisha & Raima

# *the three phases*



# 1 phase-1 Childhood memories

- The photograph shows the poet's mother as a young girl.
- She is standing on the beach with her two cousins.
- All three girls are smiling and enjoying themselves.
- Their uncle clicked the photograph during a beach holiday.
- This phase represents innocence, joy, and carefree childhood.
- The sea is shown as permanent while human life changes with time.



# 2 phase-2 Remembering the past

- Years later, the poet's mother looks at the old photograph.
- She laughs while remembering the beach holiday.
- The memory brings happiness as well as nostalgia.
- she knows she can never go back to live that time again but its memories will always stay with her
- The photograph becomes a connection between the past and present.
- This phase shows how memories stay alive even as people grow older.



# 3

## *phase-3 Loss and silence*

- The poet's mother has now passed away.
- The poet feels deep sadness while looking at the photograph.
- "Silence" represents pain that cannot be expressed in words.
- The intense grief has transitioned into a quiet, numbing acceptance of reality.
- Highlights the temporary nature of human life and memories.
- The poem concludes with "its silence silences", showing that death conquers all words



# ABT THE POET

Kathleen Shirley Toulson was an English writer, poet, journalist and local politician.

Born: May 20, 1924, United Kingdom

Died: September 23, 2018 (age 94 years)

Education: Birkbeck, University of London

Nationality: British



## SOME OF HER WORK:

- "A Photograph" (Poem): Her most widely known poem, often studied, exploring nostalgia, loss, and the passage of time.
- Shadows in an Orchard (1960): Her early poetry collection.
- The Fault, Dear Brutus: A Zodiac of Sonnets (1972): A collection of sonnets.
- All Right, Auden, I Know You're There: A Quick Thought (1970): A pamphlet of poems