MOTHER, ANY DISTANCE

Simon Armitage



WHAT HAPPENS? Measuring a home becomes an exploration of dependence and independence.

BIG IDEA **Moving towards independence stretches a family bond without making its value disappear.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

"Anchor"

Metaphor

The mother offers security, which can also imply being held in place.

"Kite"

Metaphor

The adult child imagines movement that still depends on a line.

"breaking point"

Double meaning

A physical limit also names a moment of change in the relationship.

"fall or fly"

Alliteration and alternatives

The ending leaves independence open to risk as well as fulfilment.

FORM

A sonnet-like poem of 15 lines in three unequal stanzas; the extra line unsettles a fixed inherited boundary.

CONTEXT

A familiar task of measuring a new home becomes a metaphor for an adult child's continuing relationship with a mother.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Walking Away: releasing a child.
Climbing My Grandfather: security and exploration.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Measuring together

PRACTICAL AND AFFECTIONATE

The shared job establishes that even an adult requires help.

Moving upstairs

EXPANSIVE

The tape becomes a connection through space and accumulated years.

Hatch and sky

EXHILARATED AND UNCERTAIN

The final threshold opens onto freedom with no guarantee of safety.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.

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