

## Mother and Child Jennifer Wong

You showed me how to tell  
a fresh egg by its shell,  
holding it up against the lamp.

You'd look up at the sky, predict  
from the stillness of the air  
when the rain would arrive.

The language of your dishes:  
ginger and tangerine peel julienned  
to the finest; fish steamed to perfection.

On long summer nights  
you'd lull me to sleep  
in the breeze of your palm leaf fan.

Even caning, when it happened,  
was a way of loving despite the hurt.  
It has made me a braver girl.

And that first time I stood on the swing,  
facing the wind, flying forward,  
seeing the world with your help,

leaving but not leaving you.

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A visual representation of "Mother and Child" by Jennifer Wong

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**My artwork is inspired by 'Mother and Child', which depicts a harmonious relationship between a child and a mother and showcases the mother's love and the child's gratitude.**

**In my work, both the mother and child wear simple clothes, even the teddy bear cuddled by the child in her arm is worn-out. It shows that they value love above all else. The mother gently lulls the child to sleep with her palm leaf fan and the child falls asleep with a smile. She dreams about her mother helping her to stand on the swing to enjoy the sunrise. This happens during the daytime and is such a joyful experience for her that it remains in her mind as she dreams. The sunrise symbolises that, no matter how dark things seem, light will always follow – like a new beginning. If we are grateful, like the child, we will overcome every challenge.**

**While I was creating this artwork, I thought about my mother who lulled me to sleep and played on the swings with me. I am grateful for all she has done for me.**

**Positive value(s) and attitude(s):**

Gratitude

**Positive message(s):**

Cherish what our parents, friends and others have done for us. Do not hesitate to show our gratitude to them.

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