

THE VISUAL REWRITE

Student Name: Aamna Mohsin

Roll#: F2019-202

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SECTION 1 - SAMPLE

Include the image of the selected photo here:



Where and when was this photograph taken?

Bethnal Green, London. 1972.

Provide a detailed description of the photograph:

My mom, roughly four months old here, is sitting in my ummi's (grandmother's) lap. Next to my ummi is my nana (grandfather), who is holding my khala (aunt), who is a one year old here. They are in the first house they ever lived in together as a family, which was situated on Bethnal Green Rd, London. There is a pink and white fluffy teddy bear sitting at my nano's feet, which was a gift 'from my mom to my khala when she was born' (a tactic implemented by my nana to ease my khala's transition from being an only child to an elder sister). My mom and khala seem to be looking away from the camera towards the right, presumably towards someone who is desperately trying to engage them into staying still enough for a photograph. They are all sitting on a couch in their living room, which a black and white TV set in one corner. My nana and ummi are snappily dressed (as I remember them doing my whole life; too), my ummi is smiling towards the camera while my nana offers a handsome glint of a smile in his eyes.

SECTION 2- DATA COLLECTION / INTERVIEW

You are required to conduct informal interviews with at least *two* people who are either present in the photograph or were present during the time this photo was taken. It is best to Interview the people separately in order to gather personal detailed accounts. Interviews can be conducted via phone or Skype etc.

For personal record, Investigators should transcribe or voice record the interview after obtaining proper consent from the Interviewees. The recorded data can prove to be useful in future.

Name of Interviewee # 1: Saadia Saleha Anwar	Name of Interviewee#2: Shazia Anwar
Age of Interviewee: 48	Age of Interviewee: 49
Relation to Investigator: Mother	Relation to investigator: Aunt

Briefly list down the main points of the conversation (this can be done in bullet point format) or include specific “quotes” directly from the interview:

Interviewee # 1

Conducted in person.

My mom offered me an onslaught of insight into my nana’s life that I was not emotionally prepared for. She told me this picture was taken in her childhood home when she was just a few months old, and is one of many family photos that my nana took, got printed and organized into heaps of family albums. My mom did not remember this picture being taken because she was a baby at the time, but looking at it seemed to make her open up about my nana and his life. He loved taking pictures and recording their memories, because he was a person who could truly appreciate the littlest of moments in one’s life, due to the hardships he had to go through as a child. He was kicked out of his house in India by his step mother at the age of 18 after a family life full of neglect and the absence of maternal or paternal love, both. But this did not affect his own ability to love and empathize with his own wife and children. ‘Your nana later got a coloured TV set for the house when he saw me ‘colouring in’ the picture on the screen with my colour pencils when I was a bit older than I am in this’ (she is referring to the chosen picture).

Interviewee# 2

Conducted over Messenger call.

‘I barely remember this but I think that’s our nanny your mum and I are looking at here. Nancy, she lived next door.’

My ummi had a nanny to help raise my mom and my khala, since she was alone in England and her whole family was back in Pakistan (Arifwala). My khala remembers being very attached to their nanny.

The fate of the teddy bear is seemingly unknown because when I asked my khala about it, she did not remember what happened to it/where it could possibly be now!

When asked about her relationship with her parents as a child, she said she remembers being attached to both of them but as she grew older she grew closer with my nana. They shared a love of writing (especially poetry), but when I asked her if I could share some of her poetry I found in my nana’s old suitcase, I unfortunately did not get permission.

‘Your nana loved taking pictures- I think you’ve got a few of my albums there too!’ (By ‘there’ she means our house in Pakistan. My khala moved to back to England after a few years in Pakistan when she was in her 20s and has stayed there ever since).

SECTION 3 – FINDINGS AND INSIGHT

Were there any differences or discrepancies between the Interviewees recollection of the photograph? If so explain.

Interviewee 1 (Saadia)'s recollection of the time the photograph was taken is non-existent due to her very young age at that time. I did observe though, that both Interviewees mentioned my nana's love for photography in their interviews, without being prompted to. It could be that Interviewee 2 (Shazia) was closer to their nanny, because there was no mention of Nancy during Saadia's interview.

The lack of mention about my ummi and her life in both interviews could be because of her recent passing a few years ago, and the lack of time to grieve in both Interviewees' lives.

Were there any new facts or interesting stories that you discovered during this process?

I was heartbroken to learn about how my nana was kicked out of his house at almost the age that I am now. I did not know that Cinderella step mothers exist in my very own family tree. After the interview with Saadia I felt the loss of my nana (he passed away in 2014) all over again, from a new perspective this time. I wish I had spent more time by his side and listened to the stories he was always ready to tell, but that I always thought were boring because of my limited understanding of life and the things that are actually important, during that time. My nana was truly a man who built himself up from almost nothing, and retained every ounce of empathy and love in his heart whilst doing so, which is a very underrated quality in people, in my opinion. In his old age, he was mostly bed-ridden, but he used to like having his chai on the terrace. He once threw his wallet from the terrace down to a less fortunate woman for her to catch, take out the money she needed and then return the wallet to our house by ringing the door bell (my ummi was infuriated). The aforementioned is not a new fact that I learned, because it is a part of my own memory, but due to what my mom told me, I can perceive that memory of mine from a different perspective now that fills my heart with awe for my nana. Because now I think of it like this; he stood in the face of pain and cruelty in the world (not just at home but during the partition as well, where he witnessed the 'graveyard of Lahore'- Walton Station), and still consciously made the decision to rise above it and offer kindness wherever needed.

SECTION 4 – VISUAL REWRITE

Include the image of your creative reinterpretation of the data i.e. your artwork:

This is the link to the video I made for my visual rewrite:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Z6HzGJJdhlwwH1CGVNpHia7dwIJDV0r9>

Short description of artwork

After listening to my nana's story, I could only imagine what he had gone through whilst being technically homeless at the age of 18. It made me slow down and count all the little things in my own life, even right now during quarantine, which I take for granted, that he did not have at my age. And the remarkable thing about it all is that I would not have any of these moments that I have tried to capture in my video, if it were not for my nana's hard work and determination. So now when I feel like nothing is going for me and everything sucks, I take a moment to appreciate the way the wind blows the curtains in my room back and forth ever so gently, the cupboard full of mismatched mugs in my kitchen, my privilege of being able to take a shower in my own bathroom whenever I want, and more. I am grateful.

INSTAGRAM POST

Please include a screen shot of your Insta post here:

*You are also welcome to add images of your process.



aamnaamohsin



aamnaamohsin Photographed in the first picture here are my grandparents (nana and ummi) with my mama and khala. They're in their first ever family home, which was in Bethnal Green, London. My nana didn't have any parents he could hold onto the way my khala is holding onto him in this photograph. He was raised by his stepmother who got him kicked out of the house when he was around 18 years old. He was truly a man who built himself up from almost nothing, and the most awe inspiring thing for me from his story is how he retained every bit of empathy and love he was born with in his heart, throughout his life- even when he suffered through a childhood devoid of maternal or paternal affection. So, for my visual rewrite I wanted to slow down and acknowledge the littlest of things in my every day life, even during this quarantine, that I take so much for granted, but my nana did not have at my very age because he was technically homeless. Whether it's the way the wind blows the curtains in my room back and forth ever so slightly, the cupboard full of mismatched mugs in my kitchen, or simply the privilege I have of being able to take a shower in my own bathroom whenever I want. I would not have any of these wonderful things in my life today if it weren't for his hard work and determination, of which I have a lot to learn from.

4th slide: A letter I found in my Nana's old suitcase, offering to adopt a three year old boy at the age of 73. It sparked my interest in his heart and perseverance more so.

5th slide: Photographs taken by my nana, including a self portrait. There are boxes of family albums that



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4th slide: A letter I found in my Nana's old suitcase, offering to adopt a three year old boy at the age of 73. It sparked my interest in his heart and perseverance more so.

5th slide: Photographs taken by my nana, including a self portrait. There are heaps of family albums that he kept throughout his life time, perhaps because he truly knew the importance of not taking things for granted.

[#VisualRewrite](#) by Aamna Mohsin [@aamnaamohsin](#)

34 seconds ago



Additional pictures included in the post, mentioned in the caption:

