

Belonging through:

- Race
- Shared Culture
- Alienation
- Hope

## 'Son Of Mine' by Oodgeroo Noonuccal

My son, your troubled eyes search mine,

Puzzled and hurt by colour line.

Your black skin soft as velvet shine;

What can I tell you, son of mine?

I could tell you of heartbreak, hatred blind,

I could tell you of crimes that shame mankind,

Of brutal wrong and deeds malign,

Of rape and murder, son of mine;

But I'll tell instead of brave and fine

When lives of black and white entwine,

And men in brotherhood combine-

This would I tell, you son of mine.

**Comment [U1]:** Imagery – 'troubled' suggests the child has already been subject to some sort of alienation or search for identity.

**Comment [U2]:** Symbolism – the 'colour line' symbolises the cause of alienation between individuals - literally the shade of coloured skin.

**Comment [U3]:** Positive affirmation of dark skin colour – embracing

**Comment [U4]:** Flow and rhythm – simple, yet effective in allowing the reader to enjoy reading this poem & focus on the message

**Comment [U5]:** Juxtaposition between two stanzas – previous negative images, contrasted with 'brave and fine' – again, symbolic of coloured line, the different scenarios faced by black and white.

**Comment [U6]:** Hopeful tone or protective – mother protecting her son from the harsh realities of the world as a coloured person.