On Children by Kahlil Gibran :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLT1ggRpnIo

Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you, And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you. You may give them your love but not your thoughts. For they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls, For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far. Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness; For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.

**QUESTIONS:**

In the poem "On Children" by Khalil Gibran, the narrator states that children's souls live "in the house of tomorrow, For which you [parents] cannot visit even in your dreams." What is an interpretation of these words? Give a specific explanation.

What phrases or key words in the poem ‘jump out’ at you or bring up some emotion?

What does the speaker mean when he tells the mother that her children "are with you yet they belong not to you"? To whom do the children belong?

Why should we seek to be like our children, "but seek not to make them like" us, according to the speaker?

Why are parents described as bows? Children as arrows? Who is the archer?

What are parents most responsible for in the lives of their children?

The speaker says, the souls of children "dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you/cannot visit, not even in your dreams"? If we cannot know the future, how can we prepare children for what is to come?

What is the speaker trying to teach the mother? Do you agree with the speaker's stance? Why or why not?

What does it mean to "house the bodies" but not the "souls" of those we are responsible for?

“Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.”

― James Baldwin