

## The bridal headband

My mum unwrapped the yellowed tissue paper.  
Here it is, she said  
I kept it for you.  
There it was  
A band of  
Pearls and silken flowers  
With a glint of gold.  
She picked it up  
Oh so gently in her careworn hands  
And held it out  
For me to try.  
Pearls dropped on to the carpet  
One by one  
And rolled away under the bed.  
I kept it for you, she said  
For your wedding day.  
I was crying softly.  
Mum, it's broken.  
I know, she said sadly  
But keep it as a token.