Hello Mum

Hello Mum is a short story written by Bernardine Evaristo. It was published in 2010 and it is written as a letter from Jerome, to his mother.

Jerome is a boy who lives in a poor side of London at the 21st century. He has a small room in a flat with his mother and younger sister. His whole life, he has tried to impress the boys "who are cool" in his end. He has a friend called Adrian. They have together done many things, but the dumbest thing they ever did was to go on a party in South London. His cousin was holding a party, when someone started attacking them. They fled, but in the town, the men attacked them again. Jerome and Adrian got away, but they never forgot, and Jerome did of course tell it to Delmar, the coolest kid in his end, to try to impress him. Later, Jerome's effort of impressing Delmar paid off, and he got invited to Delmar's brother, Dexter's, house. There, they asked if he wanted to join them, in their drug dealing business. Jerome said yes without thinking, but when he was send out to do his first job, he regretted. The job got done without problems, but when he went to get his payment, the problems began.

Jerome is the protagonist of the story. He is a 14 year old boy who lives in London in the 21st century. He is a very social boy, who sets his friends higher than anything. His best friend from school is Adrian. He is not very proud of how childish Adrian can act from time to time, but his is still his friend so they stick together. He acts like he hates everything with his mother, but in the end this is what he longs for and wants back. He acts like he has control of everything and that he is a cool guy, but inside himself, he knows that there is trouble behind every corner.

Delmar is another main character in the text. He is the leader of the Kamikaze Kru, the “cool” boys living in Jerome’s end. He is about 16, but he looks like a he is 18 years old. His bigger brother is the leader of a drug empire, and Delmar is a part of the gang. Delmar has a mother and a father, but he has only known his mother. His father was sent to prison, and could never be a manly role model for him. This is the reason for Delmar not caring for his father at all. Delmar is also Jerome’s biggest model. He is cool, and in charge of the situation, where ever they go.

The book is written in a very weird way. It is a letter, and because of that, it is written in the language of Jerome. Jerome is a 14 year old boy who has a language filled with so much slang as possible. Had he spoken proper, he would have got beaten every morning at school. The content of the letter also switches between times, form long ago to near past. The author has also lent us a hint on what will happen, as early as the first page, when Jerome says that he knew something was going to happen that day.

I think the theme is children's life, life in general, unfairness and who all of this is made even worse when you are born in a poor family.

The author uses very little dialogue, which is because the booklet is written as a letter, telling a story from the "I" person's perspective. The story focuses on the thoughts of Jerome, and his view of the world. We are also introduced to Jerome's ability to make poems. Poems are used as a way of foreshadow what will happen to Jerome, even though he doesn't know it himself. The divided in to chapters every time he starts telling a new story or a new major them is discussed. The vocabulary is the same way as Jerome speaks. He has a very slang filled language, which he has to, unless he wants to get beaten up. This makes the text a bit hard to read in the beginning but it also makes the text more realistic, because you feel like it is actually Jerome who could have written it.

I liked the book because the story feels reel and it feels like it is actually Jerome that has written it the letter. It was also exiting all the way until the end. The story gives you the pauses in the excitement, but it still hangs in the air so that you don’t get bored and want to stop reading it. The ending is a little too expected. Still, I liked it, because it had to end like it did, to be a story that you don’t forget.

The book is very small, so it is quickly read, but it is strong and gives you something to think about. I would recommend it to people who are more than 16 years old, but I think those under that age, can like it too.