

I am not esther



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

In the novel *I am not Esther*™ by Fleur Beale the main character experiences a lot of changes in her life. The most significant change was finding her own identity as she grew and developed as a teenager. At the beginning of the novel Kirby is a *mother*™ to her mother, she has to drag her mother to go shopping, Kirby has to pay the bills and even look after her own mother. Kirby never really knew what it was like to be a part of a *real*™ family. It is only when Ellen, her mother, suffers from a nervous breakdown that she becomes a real mother to Kirby.

Kirby feels loved and doesn't™ think that she needs to look after her mother and can love her mother properly. *I don't*™ think you can love anyone when you don't™ love yourself. Kirby wants to be taken care of by her mother and not have to worry about her mother constantly; Kirby wants to be a teenager. When Ellen gets out of hospital and finds an apartment she asks Kirby to move in with her, Kirby feels loved and cared for by her mother. Kirby feels she can be herself and, *not*™ some robot they programmed