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Mother as an Imagery and a Metaphor in *Life & Times of Michael K*

While the mother imagery is of vital importance for the protagonist K in J. M. Coetzee's fourth novel, *Life & Times of Michael K* (1983), not much research has been done with regard to this imagery. This essay interprets the triple meanings of the mother imagery: "Anna K as K's mother, Anna K and Mother Nature, Michael K as gardener mother", and analyzes the role it plays in the transformation of K's identity and self-identification as a gardener who strives for the war-tortured land.