

FAMILY AT LARGE

TEXT

Piano intro.

Can you find the child within
laughing with abandon
laughing because, because the sun is up
that's reason enough.

Can you find the child within
weeping unconstrained
weeping for the glory of it
in loud, untamed refrains.

Can you find the child within
making gleeful study of mud
intrigued by squirmy bug
recklessly coursing down a
meandering track
bored by too much yakkity yak
climbing up and falling down
reaching the top of the hill
just to roll all the way back to the
bottom – such a clown.

Ah, look within – the child's asleep
lying in haphazard peace
bits and crumbs in tousled hair –
now, how did that get there?

Soul deep grows the kernel of parenthood
wholly from God, holy as God,*
allowing the child within to thrive.
Thus, one person, alone but God-filled**
turns to the inward mirror
and sees the rudiment of family.

Within us all
is the stuff of parenthood
Protection, Guidance, Nurture,
Support, Forgiveness, Comfort,

VIDEO SUGGESTIONS

Variety of people looking in the mirror, guy shaving, woman fixing her hair, teen putting on makeup, final shot of person staring intently into mirror.

Series of babies and small children laughing and cooing happily...

Series of teary-eyed children, ending with very young baby howling up a storm. (None of the weeping children are in severe stress – it may be time for a feeding, someone has a boo-boo, someone is having a bit of a tantrum.

Children at the playground, in mud puddles, in the sandbox, in the high chair playing with food, eyeing ants, poking at bugs with a stick... Unwieldy toddlers wandering about - view of adults' legs only...

Kids running up hills and rolling down, skateboarders up and down the slope, kids going down sliding board, taking sleds up and down hill, beautiful diver at height of dive on word "just". Kids roll down hill, acting dizzy and silly, kids making "angels" in the snow...

Children sound asleep in strollers, on couches, teens asleep in class, babies asleep at ball games or other noisy events; last shot is disheveled kid in bed, jelly on face or mess in hair...

Moms and dads, grandparents holding babies, parents or older siblings helping little ones with walking, riding bikes, swimming, etc. Person looks intently into mirror.

All variety of parents cheering for kids of all ages at games, recitals, speeches, etc. parents/guardians helping kids learn to drive (with close call), helping with homework,

Encouragement, Loving-kindness
for our laughing weeping
climbing falling running reaching
making doing sleeping
child within.

May we extend
all the gifts of parenthood
and the exuberance of childhood
to every friend, every neighbor,
to every coworker,
to our husbands and wives,
companions, significant others,
to sisters and brothers,
third cousins once removed,
Grandpa! Grandma, too

to people we don't know
who are needy
to people in need,
to young, to old
to those of the in between,
to all those
of our every day,
our every day world family.

Say shalom, pass the peace
to all the family.

Piano closing segment.

Text and Video Suggestions by Brenda C. Kayne

*for secular performances, may substitute
this line with "wholly from good".

**for secular performances, may substitute
"God-filled" with "good-filled".

*waving goodbye to kids on trip (car packed to the
limit), serious discussion at family table, parent/
guardian showing disappointment – kid showing
a little guilt or shame or rebellion, parent and
child fishing together...*

*This segment could show all kinds of close rela-
tionships – showing all walks of life – the point
being that we can be parents or children at any
time in our lives as any kind of person - people
holding hands, lovers embracing, friendly mug
shots to the camera with arms around each
other, etc.*

*Close up of endearing and smiling older
gentleman, then close up of he and his wife
or female friend of similar age.*

*Show poverty and despair without actually
showing people's faces – hands of prisoner,
dirty shacks, huddled urban homeless people,
backs of undernourished children...*

*Show busy sidewalk with many pedestrians,
smiling people from foreign lands.*

*People of all walks of life shaking hands,
from foreign lands, etc., embracing,
in prayer circles, marching, singing around
a camp fire, giving a toast at a dinner,
doing the wave at the ball game, team
members in a huddle, kids with fancy
handshakes, a whole group of people waving at
the camera.*

Flashback of several shots.

*Final shot of person from the beginning staring
intently into mirror.*