

Ode to My Youth

There was an old lady who lived in a shoe,
She had so many youth, she didn't know what to do.

Each one was special, with their own need;
Wanting Ms. Jackie to "fix it" with speed.

She loved them, she hugged them;
And gave them a nudge.
But when they wanted her to do for them,
She would not budge.

Go forth and be free, live up to your potential;
She knew each one, would do something exceptional.

She fought for each youth, day in and day out.
Sometimes wondering what all the fuss was about.

But they made it, they lived, they thrived, as you can see;
Two of these special young people are here with me.

So, when the day is done and the sun sets,
Ms. Jackie goes home for a little rest.
She's greeted each night by the love of her life,
Her son Jonathan who has nothing but hugs and smiles.

"And how was your day, Mom?" is the first thing he'll say.
Then proceeds to share with her about his day.

This is what keeps me going, as I struggle and fumble.
The life they've endured keeps me humble.

So, I'm down on my knees and I say to my Father,
"Thank You! Thank You!, for this honor."

---Jackie Brown, LINKS Coordinator/Foster Care Social Worker
Catawba County, 2004

Recited at SaySo, Inc. Board of Directors Orientation June 2004