

Someone Is Looking

Sunday is Mother's Day. As we approach this holiday, many wonder how they can show their appreciation for the tireless efforts their mothers demonstrated as they were brought up.

That question was pondered by Mary Rita Schilke Korzan. She decided to write a poem thanking her mother for all she had done as a mother, friend and role model. She gave it to her mother, and a few months later, it was offered as a tribute when Mary and her husband were married. Wedding guests asked for a copy – so many, in fact, that Mary included a copy in each thank-you note.

Friends passed it on, and authors began to publish it in their books, listed as *Author Unknown*. Mary finally noticed her poem, listed that way, in *A Fourth Course of Chicken Soup for the Soul*, which her husband and children gave her as a Mother's Day gift.

Here is Mary's poem. Perhaps you can relate to the lessons she learned about her mother:

When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

*When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator,
and I wanted to paint another one.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat,
and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me,
and I knew that little things are special things.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer,
and I believed that there was a God to talk to.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me good night,
and I felt loved.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes,
and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking, you smiled,
and it made me want to look that pretty, too.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared,
and I wanted to be everything that I could be.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked ...
and I wanted to say thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.*

Ms. Korzan's poem reminds us that sometimes the little things we do "just because" mean more to someone than we can ever know. Those little things teach love, compassion, and understanding. They are priceless.

And we can be reasonably sure that – realize it or not – someone is looking. And when you live with integrity, you will have an impact for good on whoever is watching.

– Beecher Hunter