

ODE TO TEENAGERS

What is sullen then cheerful?
Is a handful, an ear-full
Can change on a dime
Plugged in or unplugged or always on line?

What makes us tearful
And at times fearful
Is both foolish and wise
And expert at pulling wool over our eyes?

His nature's resistant
Her skirt's non-existent
Their attitude's maxi
And they confuse the word, "parent" with the word, "taxi"!

They can be so profound
Can Amaze and astound
They can be charming and funny
A side we'll see most when they run out of money!

Buy a phone pay the bill
So you can reach them at will
On the phone all the time
So why don't they pick up when I'm on the line?

These mysterious creatures
With these special features
Drama queen stagers
Stormers and ragers - of course are teenagers.

How can we secure them
From those that would lure them
On-line pimps and thugs
And the danger of drugs

Twitter and texting
Facebook and sexting
Isolation and scorn
Web predators, pedophiles, and internet porn

Will they sink or thrive?
Will they Drink and drive?
Will they be ok?
Will they still be alive at the end of the day?

Are they getting stoned?
Do they feel alone?
How strong is their core?
Do we know what's in store when they walk out that door?

Don't do this don't do that
Please take off that hat
Don't fight or be cruel
Don't do drugs or have sex just focus on school

O how they roll their eyes
When we try to be wise
And they respond how?
That smirk, the raised brow: sure, can I go now?

And kids are getting meaner
Their Language obscener
Pray they are safe and heaven forbid
You find out that the bully's your very own kid!

We say just ignore it
They're told to report it
Or just walk away
All the things they won't do at the end of the day.

Girls get into a fight
we know that's not right
but boy's will be boys
and we still buy them Uzi's and war-bots for toys!

We constantly scold them
And we keep trying to mold them
Use compassion.., insight
And focus on what they are doing that's right.

When we make a mistake
It brings such heartache
Admit, apologize, that's the direction
The gift is revealing our own imperfection.

Be present be mindful and cultivate joy
Have so much faith in your girl or boy
Live your own song
Come from the heart and we will not go wrong

They will find their own voice
Give them the power of choice
The skills to stand strong
The space to just be and find their own song.

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