

The Crime of Cruelty

by Donna Marie

I can think of many valuable lessons,
That should be taught in school,
To educate youngsters when parents may fail,
For children can be so cruel.

Though it's not exclusively the way of the young,
Sadly, there are guilty adults,
But whatever the age they commit the crime,
Their cruelty generates devastating results.

When they pick and poke fun and alienate,
They think it is harmless fun,
Not caring that their words are bullets,
Their actions the trigger, and they are the gun.

These wounds create scars on their spirit,
Change the face of whom they become,
A few will grow strong and compassionate,
While others feel worthlessness they never overcome.

Their precious lives wasted, they may feel ashamed,
With their true self suppressed in a cage,
Or some being stifled and criticized for so long,
May lash out in violent rage.

It should be understood, responsibility lies,
With those having the power to give the meek defense,
When the selfish and insecure find the need,
To build their self-esteem at another's expense.

Then perhaps we wouldn't have to hold on so tightly,
Or prepare them for the cruel world out there,
They wouldn't have to grow up living in fear,
Being schooled in what to beware.

If we instilled in children while they were young,
To consider others' feelings, to be kind,
Neither they nor the world would ever be cruel,
And true friends wouldn't be so hard to find.

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