

Stanza-by-Stanza Analysis

Stanza 1:

<i>Lines</i>	<i>Meanings</i>
Now why so loving, darling,	The child becomes very loving towards the parent.
And why the sudden kiss?	The child gives the parent a kiss.
You'd help me with some little jobs?	The child also offers to help the parents with chores around the house.
For goodness sake, what's this?	The parent is puzzled that the child has a sudden change of behaviour.

Note :

The persona is greeted with a kiss and hug from her son who offers to help her with some work. She is puzzled with this change in behaviour.

Stanza 2:

<i>Lines</i>	<i>Meanings</i>
Your face is clean for once, dear.	The parent cannot believe that the child's face is clean.
Your clothes without a crease.	The child's clothes are neat, without any wrinkles.
You saved your luncheon money?	The child has also saved his lunch money.
Will wonders never cease?	The parent is totally astonished.

Note :

He looks clean and his clothes are not creased. It is surprising that he did not spend his luncheon money.

Stanza 3:

<i>Lines</i>	<i>Meanings</i>
No dropping of your school books,	The parents is surprised when the child does not drop his/her school books around the house.
No shrieking, childish treble.	The child does not scream or shout like he/she normally does.
Today you are a lamb, love,	The child is as innocent and gentle as a lamb.
Where yesterday a rebel.	Before, the child was rebellious.

Note :

When he reaches home, the boy does not drop his school books or shriek out like a rebel. Instead he acts meek and gentle like a lamb.

Stanza 4:

<i>Lines</i>	<i>Meanings</i>
But surely you're some stranger,	The parent begins to wonder if the child is not his usual self.
No rage or hullabaloo.	The child does not show any anger nor make any noise.
Come closer, let me look, dear,	The parent wants to have a clearer look at the child.
Can this be really you?	The parents wants to confirm the identity of the child.

Note :

The persona feels she is talking to a stranger and not her usual noisy child. She wants to take a closer look at him to satisfy her curiosity that is really him.

Stanza 5:

<i>Lines</i>	<i>Meanings</i>
Now were you struck by lightning	The parent wonders if lightning has struck the child.
Or were you stunned at sport?	The parent wonders if the child was shocked while playing sports.
Ah... now I see the reason.	Finally, the parent finds out the truth.
You've brought your school report!	The child has brought home his/her school report card.

Note :

She wonders if he has been struck by lightning or hit during a game. Then she notices his school report card in his hand. Now she understands the reason for his sudden change in behaviour.