

Heather Quinn
SONG

CAST
POET – Writes in Neighborhood Park under cypress tree called “Tree.”
(to be played by Scuffed Black Shoe & Starling)

MOTHER – Elderly mother of Poet in hospital despite Poet giving her his last mask at beginning of outbreak.
(to be played by Paper Lantern Tossed by Ocean)

OFFICER – Walks Neighborhood Park beat. Notebook entry at start of shift: “Hot day. Seek shade.”
(to be played by Waterless Tea Kettle)

NURSE – Works at Hospital. Senses an invisible root running from her navel to Mother’s navel; has never felt this kind of connection before & thought it was indigestion until realizing her belly is humming at the vibration of music
(to be played by Plump Apple)

STRAY – Neighborhood Park regular
(to be played by Dog)

SCENE I
Poet sits & writes under Tree, “I have lost my words”
Wind blows Poet’s words from page through Neighborhood Park
Words swirl like leaves then:

“I” thumps Stray’s left ear (Stray lets loose loud howl)

“words” hangs by its “s” on Tree

“have” & “my” float to sky

“lost” flies into Officer’s eyes

Officer swats “lost” away & spots Poet sitting in public without mask
Officer demands explanation
Poet tries to speak but cannot
Draws picture instead

Officer (turning burnt red) rips picture in two
Confiscates journal
Hands Poet citation for subversive activity
Points & shouts: *Lock him up!*

SCENE II

Poet transforms into Starling, flies through cell bars into night sky & perches on windowsill of Mother’s hospital room

Poet knocks on window with beak

Nurse opens window, nods in recognition, lets Poet in & places paper cup full of Mother’s tears before Poet

Nurse leaves room as Poet drinks from cup then perches on Mother’s shoulder

Mother’s tears illuminate Poet’s beak & when Poet starts to sing fireflies rush from mouth

Mother gasps in delight

SCENE III

Poet eats lyrics from songbook left by Nurse on Mother’s bedside table

Poet (singing to Mother):
*Night is a warm blanket to rock you to sleep
To carry you to dreams so sweet*

Mother tries to sing along but coughs uncontrollably

Nurse hurries into room then calls Code Ventilator

Poet flaps wings in fright as fireflies light up Mother’s chest

[Fireflies flicker & fade out]