**Mother**

I wish to hold her hand

through any unknown forest

but she holds mine

I wish to whisper encouragement

when there is lingering doubt

but she encourages me

I want to lift burden from her shoulders

once strength begins to disappear

but she picks me up

I want to shut out darkness from her mind

when it threatens to overcome light

but she shields me

I need her to hear my words

so she knows she’s beautiful

so she lets go of the burden

so I can shield her

so I can hold her hand.