

## A PLEDGE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN

We accept responsibility for children  
who sneak popsicles before supper,  
who *erase* holes in math workbooks,  
and who never find *their* shoes.

And we accept responsibility for those  
who can't bound down the street in a new pair of sneakers,  
who were born in places we wouldn't be caught dead,  
who have never gone to the circus,  
and live in an x-rated world.

We accept responsibility for children  
who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,  
*who hug us in a hurry*,  
and forget their lunch money.

And we accept responsibility for those  
who never get dessert,  
who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,  
who can't find ally bread to steal,  
whose pictures aren't on anybody's dressers,  
and whose *monsters are real*.

We accept responsibility for children  
who spend all their allowance before Tuesday, who like *ghosts stories*,  
who get visits from the tooth fairy,  
who shove dirty clothes under the bed, and never rinse out the tub.

And we accept responsibility for children whose nightmares come in the-daytime, who  
have never seen a dentist,  
and who aren't spoiled by anybody.

We accept responsibility for children  
who want to be carried,  
and for those who must,  
for those we never give up on,  
and for those who don't get a second chance.

We accept responsibility  
for those we love to smother with love,  
And for those  
who will grab the hand of anyone kind enough to offer it.

--adapted from *Inn J Flughs*