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Title

A Child Said, What is the Grass

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a child said, what is the grass?

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♩ = 72 *leggiero*

Violin *mp*

Violoncello *f leggiero*

Piano *mp*

Vibraphone *mp*

The first system of the score features four staves. The Violin part (top) is in treble clef with a 12/8 time signature, playing a rapid sixteenth-note pattern with accents and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The Violoncello part (second) is in alto clef with a 12/8 time signature, playing a slower eighth-note melody with a dynamic marking of *f leggiero*. The Piano part (third) consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a 12/8 time signature, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The Vibraphone part (bottom) is in treble clef with a 12/8 time signature, playing a simple harmonic accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *mp*. A repeat sign is present at the end of the first measure of each staff.

Vln. ³

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

The second system of the score features four staves. The Violin part (top) is in treble clef with a 12/8 time signature, continuing the rapid sixteenth-note pattern with accents and a dynamic marking of *mp*. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated above the first measure. The Violoncello part (second) is in alto clef with a 12/8 time signature, continuing the eighth-note melody. The Piano part (third) consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a 12/8 time signature, continuing the rhythmic accompaniment. The Vibraphone part (bottom) is in treble clef with a 12/8 time signature, continuing the harmonic accompaniment. A repeat sign is present at the end of the first measure of each staff.

5

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

This system contains measures 5 and 6. The Violin part features a rapid sixteenth-note scale with accents. The Violoncello part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Piano part consists of a rhythmic eighth-note pattern in both hands. The Vibraphone part plays a series of chords, with a fermata over the first measure.

7

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

This system contains measures 7 and 8. The Violin part continues the scale with a trill-like flourish at the end of measure 7. The Violoncello part has a more varied eighth-note accompaniment. The Piano part continues its rhythmic pattern. The Vibraphone part features a melodic eighth-note line with a fermata over the first measure.

9

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

mp

This system contains measures 9 and 10. The Violin part has a more melodic line with some grace notes. The Violoncello part continues with eighth notes. The Piano part has a fermata over the first measure of each system. The Vibraphone part has a melodic eighth-note line starting in measure 9, with a fermata over the first measure of the system.

11

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

This system covers measures 11 and 12. The Violin part features a melodic line of eighth notes. The Viola part plays a similar eighth-note pattern. The Piano part has a complex texture with sixteenth-note runs in both hands. The Vibraphone part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and eighth-note patterns.

13

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

This system covers measures 13 and 14. The Violin and Viola parts continue with their eighth-note patterns. The Piano part has a similar texture to the previous system. The Vibraphone part features a more active eighth-note accompaniment.

15

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

This system covers measures 15 and 16. The Violin part has a melodic line with some chromaticism. The Viola part continues with eighth notes. The Piano part has a similar texture. The Vibraphone part features a more active eighth-note accompaniment.

17

Vln. *poco a poco dim.*

Vc. *poco a poco dim.*

Pno.

Vib. *mf* *poco a poco dim.*

19

2

Vln. ||:

Vc. ||:

Pno. ||:

Vib.

21

Vc. ||:

Pno.

Vib. *mp*

23

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

p

p

25

8

11

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

pp

A child said, What is the grass?
 fetching it to me with full hands;
 How could I answer the child?...
 I do not know what it is any more than he.
 I guess it must be the flag of my disposition,
 out of hopeful green stuff woven.

repeat ad lib (6 x total?)
pizz

29

Vc.

Vib.

p

p

30 *pizz*
Vln. *mp*
Vc.
Vib.

33
Vln.
Vc.
Pno. *mf*
Vib.

35
Vln.
Vc.
Pno. *mf*
Vib.

37
Vln. *cresc.*
Vc. *8*

Pno. *cresc.* *ll.*
Vib. *cresc.*

39
Vln.
Vc.

Pno. *ll.*
Vib.

41
Vln. *arco*
Vc. *mf arco* *12*

Pno. *f*
Vib. *perc* *mf*

43

Vln. *cresc.*

Vc. *cresc.*

Pno. *cresc.*

Vib. *cresc.*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 43 and 44. The Violin part (Vln.) features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern that becomes more complex in measure 44. The Viola part (Vc.) is mostly silent, indicated by a slash, with a few notes in measure 44. The Piano part (Pno.) has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand, with accents (^) on the right-hand notes in measure 44. The Vibraphone part (Vib.) is silent, indicated by a slash. The dynamic marking *cresc.* (crescendo) is present for all instruments.

45

Vln.

Vc.

Pno. ^ ^ ^ ^

Vib.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 45 and 46. The Violin part (Vln.) continues with a sixteenth-note pattern. The Viola part (Vc.) has a few notes in measure 46. The Piano part (Pno.) has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents (^) on the right-hand notes in measure 46. The Vibraphone part (Vib.) is silent, indicated by a slash. The dynamic marking *cresc.* is implied from the previous system.

47

Vln.

Vc.

Pno. ^ ^ ^ ^

Vib.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 47 and 48. The Violin part (Vln.) continues with a sixteenth-note pattern. The Viola part (Vc.) has a few notes in measure 48. The Piano part (Pno.) has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents (^) on the right-hand notes in measure 48. The Vibraphone part (Vib.) is silent, indicated by a slash. The dynamic marking *cresc.* is implied from the previous system.

49

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *ff*

Vib. *f*

51

Vln. *poco a poco dim.*

Vc. *poco a poco dim.*

Pno. *poco a poco dim.*

Vib. *poco a poco dim.*

54

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

57 8

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

59 10

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

p

p

p

Or I guess it is the handkerchief of the Lord,
 A scented gift and remembrancer designedly dropped,
 Bearing the owner's name someway in the corners,
 that we may see and remark, and say Whose?

repeat ad lib (6 x total?)

62

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

pizz

pizz

Or I guess the grass is itself a child...
the produced babe of the vegetation.

63

Vln.

Pno.

Vib.

67

Vln.

Pno.

Vib.

69

Vln.

Pno.

Vib.

71

Vln.

Pno.

Vib.

73 11 *arco*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *arco* *f*

Pno. *mf*

Vib. 2 2

77

Vln.

Vc. 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Pno.

Vib. 2 2

81

Vln.

Vc. 3 3 3 3

Pno.

Vib. 2 2

85

Vib.

Or I guess it is a uniform hieroglyphic, And it means,
 Sprouting alike in broad zones and narrow zones,
 Growing among black folks as among white, Kanuck, Tuckahoe, Congressman, Cuff,
 I give them the same, I receive the same.

And now it seems to me the beautiful uncut hair of graves.

89

Vib.

91

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

98

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

105

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

109

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

p

21

Tenderly will I use you curling grass,
 It may be you transpire from the breasts of young men,
 It may be if had known them I would have loved them;
 It may be you are from old people and from women,
 and from offspring taken soon out of their mother's laps,
 and here you are the mother's laps.

112 *repeat ad lib (8x total?)*

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

p

mp

7

8

This grass is very dark to be from the white heads of old mothers
 Darker than the colorless beards of old men,
 Dark to come from under that faint red roofs of mouths
 O I perceive after all so many uttering tongues!

117

$\text{♩} = 144$

Pno.

125 And I perceive they do not come from the roofs of mouths for nothing.

Pno.

Vib.

boo-bams

mp

133

Vc.

pizz

mf

Vib.

mf

139

Vln.

pizz

mf

Vc.

sparkle

mf

Vib.

143

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

147

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

150

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

154

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

157

Vln. *arco*

Vc. *arco*

Pno. *f*

Vib. *perc*

mf

161

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

165

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

This system covers measures 165 to 168. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts play a rhythmic eighth-note pattern. The Piano (Pno.) part features a steady accompaniment of chords. The Vibraphone (Vib.) part has a melodic line with asterisks marking specific notes. A double bar line with a '2' above it appears at the end of measure 168.

169

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

This system covers measures 169 to 172. The Violin and Viola parts continue their rhythmic pattern. The Piano accompaniment remains consistent. The Vibraphone part includes a phrase with a slur and asterisks. A double bar line with a '2' above it is present at the end of measure 172.

173

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

ff

This system covers measures 173 to 176. The Violin and Viola parts play a more complex rhythmic pattern. The Piano part features a fast, sixteenth-note accompaniment. The Vibraphone part has a melodic line with asterisks. A double bar line with a '2' above it is present at the end of measure 176. The dynamic marking *ff* is indicated at the beginning of the system.

177

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

181

Pno.

Vib.

185

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

189

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

193

Vln. *poco a poco dim.*

Vc. *poco a poco dim.*

Pno. *poco a poco dim.*

197

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

200

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

I wish I could translate the hints about the dead young men and women.
And the hints about old men and mothers, and the offspring taken soon out of their laps.
What do you think has become of the young and old men?
What do you think has become of the women and children?

205 *repeat ad lib (12 x total?)*

Pno.

206 $\text{♩} = 72$

Vln. *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

Vc. *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

Pno. *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

Vib. *vibe* *mp*

Perc. *mp*

210

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

Perc.

214

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

This system contains measures 214 through 217. The Violin part features a melodic line with eighth-note triplets and sixteenth-note runs. The Viola part provides a steady accompaniment with eighth notes. The Piano part consists of a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth-note chords in both hands, with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes.

218

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

perc

2

This system contains measures 218 through 221. It includes a Vibraphone part with a melodic line and percussive markings (x) above the notes. The Violin, Viola, and Piano parts continue with their respective parts from the previous system. The system concludes with a double bar line and a '2' indicating the start of a new section.

222

Vln. *f* *dim.*

Vc. *f* *dim.*

Pno. *dim.*

Vib. *f*

They are alive and well somewhere;
 The smallest sprouts show there is really no death,
 and if ever there was it led forward life, and does not wait at the end to arrest it,
 and ceased the moment life appeared.

repeat ad lib (12 x total?)

226

Vln. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Pno. *ppp*

All goes onward and outward... and nothing collapses
 And to die is different what anyone supposed and luckier.

227

Vib. *p*

228

Vln. *vln*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mp*

Vib.

poco a poco cresc.

231

Vln.

Vc. *poco a poco cresc.*

Pno.

Vib.

234

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib. perc

237

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 237 to 239. The Violin part (Vln.) features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The Viola part (Vc.) provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The Piano part (Pno.) consists of a dense texture of chords and arpeggiated figures. The Vibraphone part (Vib.) has a rhythmic pattern with some mutes indicated by 'x' marks.

240

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

ff

Detailed description: This system covers measures 240 to 242. The Violin part (Vln.) continues its melodic line. The Viola part (Vc.) has a more active role with sixteenth-note passages, marked with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The Piano part (Pno.) features a complex texture with many chords and arpeggios. The Vibraphone part (Vib.) has a rhythmic pattern with mutes ('x') and is also marked with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.

243

Vln. Vc. Pno. Vib.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 243 to 245. The Violin part (Vln.) has a melodic line with some rests. The Viola part (Vc.) has a rhythmic pattern. The Piano part (Pno.) is mostly silent, indicated by a double bar line and a slash. The Vibraphone part (Vib.) has a rhythmic pattern with mutes ('x').