

Heaven

(adapted from *Stories for Children*. Drawing by Tony Shearing)

Amanda Jane lay asleep in her bed. Something warm and gentle kissed her face and she opened her eyes to see the sun shining on her pillow. Outside in the sky all the birds were singing, while down on the ground the flowers opened their petals and smiled at the sun.

"Today," said Amanda to herself, "Today, I am going to look for heaven."

She helped her mother peg the washing on the line in the garden, and her mother stopped looking tired and was happy instead.

"Helping is a little bit of heaven," thought Amanda.

She noticed a baby bird lying still in the grass. She picked him up and gently held him in her hands. She saw a nest above her head, which was the baby bird's home. She lifted him



in and he opened his eyes to say thank you for being so kind.

"Kindness is another bit of heaven," thought Amanda.

A little boy came crying down the street. He had fallen on a stone and hurt his knee. Amanda wrapped her hanky round the bit that was sore and the little boy stopped looking sad and was happy instead.

"Healing is another bit of heaven," thought Amanda.

She looked at the sky where the birds were singing. She looked at the ground where the flowers were smiling.

"Heaven is everywhere," said Amanda Jane.