



CHILD ON LOAN

I'll lend you for a little while a child of mine God said
For you to love the while he lives and mourn for when he's dead
It may be six or seven years or 42 or 3
But will you till I call him back take care of him for me.

He'll bring you charms to gladden you and should his stay be brief
You'll always have his memories as a solace in your grief

I cannot promise he will stay since all from you returns
But there are lessons taught below, I want this child to learn
I look the whole world over in my search for teachers true
And from the folk that walk life's land I have chosen you

Now will you give him all your love and not think the labour vain
Nor hate me when I come to take this lent child back again
I fancy that I heard them say Dear God thy will be done
For all the joys this child will bring the risk of grief we'll run

We will shelter him with tenderness, we'll love him while we may
and for all the happiness we've ever know we'll ever grateful stay
But should the angels call much sooner than we plan
We will brave the bitter grief that comes and try to understand.

By Edgar Albert Guest