

*Dear Mother,*

*Have I ever told you how special you are? How much you mean to me - to my life?*

*You gave me the freedom to fly on my own.*

*My journeys have often been long and hard.*

*Yet, you allowed me to travel, even through the worst of storms, waiting with patience for my return.*

*So many times I would find my way home afraid and filled with pain. Like a bird with a broken wing.*

*You picked me up, brushed me off, and let me fly again.*

*Never did you judge me for my mistakes.*

*Rather, you let me experience life the way I chose.*

*You never called me a failure when that is all I could see in myself.*

*Instead, you showed me my worth.*

*You never let me fall when others tried to bring me down.*

*Rather, you stood by my side and taught me to be strong and keep my pride, even in the dimmest of times.*

*All the times I thought I "knew it all," I thought that I was invincible.*

*You silently let me find out for myself that I was wrong.*

*You never said, "I told you so."*

*Instead, you wiped away my tears and listened to me.*

*That takes a lot of dignity.*

*Did you know you are the one I most admire?*

*If I could be a fraction of the person you are, I would be satisfied.*

*There will be more journeys for me, and I'm sure I will come home with many more "broken wings" but as long as home is where you are, I know I will survive.*

*I am far from the perfect one. That, I'm afraid, I will never become. But I am your daughter who will always love you and try my hardest to make you proud.*

*Happy Mothers Day!!*

*Catherine Marie*