

## IT TAKES COURAGE

When you came into my life I had no idea  
How to teach you all the things you'd need to know.  
Funny thing, you taught me just as much as I taught you,  
And now, each of us has so much more to show.

As a little girl you claimed the center of the stage  
With your energy and wild, dramatic ways.  
Everyone adored you with your bright and sparkling eyes,  
Your smile was the sunshine of our days.

### CHORUS

*IT TAKES COURAGE to grow and be who you are,  
IT TAKES COURAGE to know you're as special as a star,  
IT TAKES COURAGE to live and strive for your ideals,  
IT TAKES COURAGE to love, and learn to trust what you feel.*

Sensitive by nature, your feelings got hurt easily, and  
Every time you cried my heart would break.  
But you learned how to defend yourself, and how to show compassion,  
How to dish it out, and how to take.

When you made mistakes you took the consequences bravely,  
I could see that you were learning right from wrong, and  
When you hit homeruns I was proud as I could be  
To have a daughter so purposeful and strong.

### CHORUS

I've tried to change the world for you, I'm doin' the best I can,  
I won't pretend that caring has no cost.  
But nothing's quite as thrilling as to see Creation happening,  
And in the end, I've gained much more than lost.

My wish for you today is to learn to love yourself,  
To bless your shadow and make friends with your fears.  
To see yourself through my eyes, you're growing and you're beautiful,  
To carry this special moment through the years.

### CHORUS

©1991 Dorie Ellzey Blesoff

*Dorie's notes: Written for my oldest daughter, Jamine, and sung during the Parents' Blessing portion of her Bat Mitzvah. I still wish all these things for her, and she is still growing and beautiful.*