

raising zane

he loves animals science the natural world
he thirsts for information
connects ideas asks profound questions for his age
but he has a darker side as well
he is private
intrusions can be met with force
he is sweet but has a temper that breeds anger
he finds difficult to control
he doesn't fit the mold we're told
refuses to settle down
when pressed to calm he can crack
and the clever boy turn spiteful
he finds difficulty focusing finishing simple tasks
and angers easily at himself
for not meeting the measure
what is this measure but a standardized mold
what can be done to meet his needs
they say he has a disorder
they say we should medicate our little boy
advice from non-medical professionals
we've been here before with differing advice
he needs a good spanking followed by prayer
he needs to be separated from the others
you plainly see what his interests are
can't you meet him there
to tend the fields of his intellect
but we couldn't do that for every child
he needs to develop

the basic skills of the classroom
he needs to be still and deal
with the boredom and monotony
like everyone else
at our wit's end he was evaluated
and big surprise diagnosed with
ADHD
he was prescribed a medication
and insurance told us no
because others hadn't been disproven
another was given
the standard
which would have been fine
except his spirit was broken
the teachers were pleased
another stole his sleep
yet another robbed his appetite
and through two years he was experimented on
for the sake of helping him
though in that time i can scarcely say he was helped
so we are back to the first again
that was originally denied us
and lo and behold a positive difference
has been made for my son's condition
is the condition his or theirs
i can't help but wonder who is more disordered
the curious boy thirsting for knowledge or
the society that tells him
quiet
wait for everyone else

Author's Note

Raising Zane attempts to capture some of the frustrations of having a child diagnosed with ADHD. As is the case with so many conditions, understanding the environmental factors at play is of utmost importance. I worry that with today's hectic schedules, play dates, activities, after school programs, crowded classrooms and two worker households, we may be compartmentalizing children into smaller and smaller boxes and expecting them to perform as though nothing has changed. Do children have enough support to deal with increasing demands placed on them? Do teachers have enough support to deal with growing classrooms? Do parents have the support they need when hours are long while finances and patience are short? With a medical system incentivized towards doing, not talking, answers to difficult questions can become elusive. I hope that physicians and parents will become more able to address the difficult questions instead of just going for the quick fix.