The Cycle
by
Denver Mason

Based on the song
"Cat's in the Cradle"
By Harry Chapin

Current Revisions by
Renee Lindskoog
September 20, 2010

Copyright © 2010
Nuggy Mason Productions
166 Norwich Crescent
Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada
T8A 5S1
INT. CLASSROOM, MID-DAY

Danny, a young boy is sitting front and centre in his outdoor education class, all children around him are talking to one another.

TEACHER
Now class, can everyone be quiet for a minute here? Thanks, I’d like to remind you all about the father-son fishing trip this weekend. Make sure you all get your permission forms in and your dad is available on the 22nd.

School bell rings as Danny gathers his books and leaves

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY’S HOUSE, AFTERNOON

Danny is watching TV and his dad walks in, looking exhausted from a long day’s work. His dad hangs his coat on the hook and kicks off his shoes. Danny rushes to him and gives him a big hug.

DANNY
Daddy!

DAD
Hello son, how was school?

DANNY
It was great. We are having a father-son fishing trip this weekend. My teacher says you need to come.

DAD
Oh son, I’d love to. But I just can’t I’ve got a big meeting this Saturday in Colorado. Sorry son.

DANNY
Oh, that’s okay dad.

Danny goes into his room and sits on the bed.

TIME LAPSE TO:
INT. DANNY’S ROOM, AFTERNOON

Danny is now a teenager.

Him and his friends are sitting on the floor; smoke is filling the room. They hear the sound of a garage door opening, Danny jumps up, opens the window and turns on the fan to get rid of some of the smoke.

DANNY
Crap, my dad’s home early. Get outta here guys, I’ll talk to you later.

His friends go out the window and scale the side of the house. Danny’s dad walks in.

DANNY (CONT’D)
Hey dad, how was work?

DAD
Good, what’d you do today?

DANNY
Homework

Dad sniffs around

DAD
You smell something funny?

DANNY
(Nervous) Yeah, yeah, the uh, neighbors were trying to start their lawn mower and the smell of propane filled the cul de sac, so that, that’s probably it.

DAD
No, that isn’t the smell of propane, that smells like a rock concert. Were you huffing?

Danny’s face goes beat red.

DAD (CONT’D)
Danny! I thought I taught you better! You’re grounded for 3 months!

DANNY
But dad, summer is just around the corner..
DAD
You should have thought of that before!

Danny’s dad leaves and slams the door

TIME LAPSE TO:

INT. DORM ROOM, NIGHT

Danny is now a young adult.

Danny is sitting at his desk in college, working on a report, he takes a sip of coffee. Danny then refills his mug with the pot sitting right next to him. A request for a video chat from his dad pops up on Danny’s screen, he clicks ignore.

Danny takes another sip of coffee and goes back to work

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY’S OLD HOUSE, NIGHT

Dad is sitting at computer, he sees the video chat request window disappear. A tear drips onto the keyboard.

TIME LAPSE TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, MORNING

Danny is now an adult.

Danny is standing at the end of a big table, giving a presentation. Many co-workers sitting and watching him.

DANNY
So as you see, in fall of 2015, the stocks for our company took a huge incline. This is due to...

Danny’s phone rings. He looks at it; it is from the hospital.

DANNY (CONT’D)
Excuse me, one second.

Danny leaves the room and answers the phone.

DANNY (CONT’D)
Hello?
OPERATOR
Hello, is this Mr. Daniel Edwards?

DANNY
Yes, what is this concerning?

OPERATOR
It’s your father, he suffered a severe heart attack. We couldn’t save him. I’m terribly sorry, Mr. Edwards.

Danny has a look of shock and sadness on his face, he lowers his phone from his ear, and hangs up. He re-enters the room.

DANNY
I’m going to have to continue this tomorrow. Meeting adjourned.

Danny leaves the building.

FADE TO:

I/E. DANNY’S HOUSE, MID-DAY

Danny pulls his car into the driveway and enters the house.

Danny’s wife is doing the dishes. Danny enters the front door, his wife turns in shock.

WIFE
Why are you home so early?

DANNY
Dad died this morning.

Wife embraces him with a large hug.

Braedyn, Danny’s young child, enters through the front door. Danny and his wife both turn and look, acting like nothing is wrong.

BRAEDYN
Daddy!

DANNY
Hello son. how was school?

BRAEDYN
Great, we’re going on a fishing trip tomorrow. Can you come?
DANNY
Sorry son, daddy has to finish a big meeting tomorrow.

BRAEDYN
Oh, okay...

Braedyn walks up to room.

TIME LAPSE TO:

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME, DAY
Danny is now an elder.

Danny is sitting in a wheelchair pulled up to a desk. He is writing a letter. The lonely old man folds the note and puts it in an envelope. He passes the envelope to a worker of the home. She takes it and leaves the room.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. BRAEDYN’S HOUSE, DAY

Braedyn enters kitchen with a pile of mail, he flips through it, throwing some flyers out then sees a letter from an old folks home, he opens it, skims it, and throws it out.

FADE TO BLACK.