

## Mother's Day choral reading 2

*This version includes pantomime action. Props need not be used. Actors should pantomime in such a way the audience sees what is not there. Lighting cues are in italics.*

CHARACTERS: (SPEAKING) Readers 1 & 2, All; (ACTING) Mother, children, Father, shop owner, poor person, city elders, owner of field

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Proverbs 31, The Message

At rise: Mother and children are center stage, lying down asleep. Stage left: field owner, father and city elders motionless in darkness; Far stage right, shop owner motionless in darkness. Poor person is offstage (right)

<p>READER 1: A good woman is hard to find, ALL: and worth far more than diamonds. READER 2: She's up before dawn, preparing breakfast ALL: for her family and organizing her day. READER 2: First thing in the morning, she dresses for work, ALL: rolls up her sleeves, eager to get started.</p>	<p><i>Lights up on center stage</i> Mother sits up, stretches, gets up and wakes children who also get up. Mother rolls up her sleeves, starts to mix in a bowl as she directs children to roll up bedding, fetch and carry. Children stand before her with bowls which she fills from her bigger bowl.</p>
<p>READER 2: Her clothes are well-made and elegant, ALL: and she always faces tomorrow with a smile. READER 2: She's skilled in the crafts of home and hearth, ALL: diligent in homemaking.</p>	<p>As children eat, mother sews.</p>
<p>READER 1: She makes her own clothing, ALL: and dresses in colorful linens and silks.</p>	<p>Mother finishes sewing and dons coat</p>
<p>READER 2: She doesn't worry about her family when it snows; ALL: their winter clothes are all mended and ready to wear. READER 1: She designs gowns and sells them, ALL: brings the sweaters she knits to the dress shops. READER 1: She's like a trading ship that sails to faraway places ALL: and brings back exotic surprises. READER 2: She shops around for the best yarns and cottons ALL: and enjoys knitting and sewing.</p>	<p>Mother puts hats and scarves of children and they move stage right to shop owner. <i>Lights down center stage and up far right</i></p> <p>Mother sells item to shop owner and gets paid. Owner counts out 5 coins. Mother looks over store goods and uses part of the money to buy more yarn or cloth. Mother should pay with one coin.</p> <p>While this is going on, field owner moves in the darkness to stage right</p>
<p>READER 1: She looks over a field and buys it, ALL: then, with money she's put aside, plants a garden.</p>	<p><i>Lights down far right and up stage right on field owner who is hoeing.</i> Mother and children move to stage right. Field owner motions to indicate the field. Mother pays one coin. Field owner exits stage right as mother hands hoe to one child; mother and children kneel and squat to weed and plant. Poor person approaches</p>

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	from stage right. <i>Lights dim stage right and up stage left</i>
READER 2: Her husband is greatly respected ALL: when he deliberates with the city fathers.	Father talks and elders listen, nodding <i>Lights down stage left and up stage right.</i>
READER 1: She's quick to assist anyone in need, ALL: reaches out to help the poor. READER 1: When she speaks she has something worthwhile to say, ALL: and she always says it kindly. READER 2: She keeps an eye on everyone in her household, ALL: and keeps them all busy and productive. READER 1: She senses the worth of her work, ALL: is in no hurry to call it quits for the day.	Poor person stands by field. Mother offers them a job working in the field, offering one coin. Poor person kneels and starts to work with them. Mother points out something to one child and hugs another. As this is going on, Father moves from stage left to join them.
READER 1: Her children respect and bless her; ALL: her husband joins in with words of praise: READER 2: "Many women have done wonderful things, but you've outclassed them all!" READER 2: Her husband trusts her without reserve, ALL: and never has reason to regret it. READER 1: Never spiteful, she treats him generously ALL: all her life long.	Father arrives (either Father or reader 2 can deliver the line). Father pulls her to her feet and hugs her. She hugs him back. They share a smile. Children and poor person also stand.
READER 1: Charm can mislead and beauty soon fades. ALL: The woman to be admired and praised is the woman who lives in the Fear-of-God. READER 1 & 2: Give her everything she deserves! ALL: Festoon her life with praises!	Mother and Father, arms around each other stand center as all the cast gathers around, praising and admiring her. Father and children are plainly proud; mother humbly accepting the praise. <i>Lights fade out.</i>

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