



Within

A musical by Laura Botsford

Cast

Ella: A young girl, age 8 to 12, compassionate, and kind with a crisp sense of humor.

Eden: A young boy, age 8 to 12, unsure, shy, a bit anxious and sad

Troika: age 10, a mean girl, saucy and sarcastic,

Taj: jovial, expressive, sings, dances,

Aida: happy, sings, dances

Mother Nature Tree or Person:

Trees: Chorus

Songs

WHERE DO FRIENDS COME FROM :

WHERE DO I BELONG

PLAYFUL VIBES

BUTTERFLY WISHES

MAKE A SILLY FACE

GOING ON MY WAY

BOSSY WAS BEST

DANCING DRAGON

Golden Soul

Act 1 Scene One

Setting: A park or playground with swings. A bench is near a tree.

Opening scene: *(Children run across the stage playing and chasing each other leaving Ella trying to catch up and play with them.)*

Torika: *(stops and turns to Ella)* You're not in our group. Go find someone else to play with new girl.

Ella: *(She laughs)* Well, I'm not so keen on playing with you if you're not wanting to get to know each other either.

Torika: *(pointing to the other kids in the group)* We have been friends since kindergarten and that's enough for us! Come on *(She huffs off smugly and the others follow like sheep)*

Ella: Gosh what's a girl to do to make friends around here?. *(She sits on bench that has a flower box and talks to the flowers.)* I can talk to you, I know you won't shoo me away. But still... *(sighs)* it's not easy being the new girl.

ELLA SINGS**WHERE DO FRIENDS COME FROM**

I'm a little bit careful
A little bit shy
A whole lot nervous
With a breath and a sigh
I wonder why
Maybe because

I like you so much
And hope that you will like me too
What should I do
If I say hello
Will you answer me back
With a smile and hello
That says
I like you too.

Chorus 1

Can you please tell me where friends come from
Are they hiding in plain sight
Then light up like the sun
Then for sure I would know which one is right
And not feel so totally muddy
Take your hand in mine and call you my buddy

Verse 2

If you wanted a star
I'd pull one from out of the blue
I'd give you a wish
From my wishing jar too
I would give you my last sweet confection
Just to share with you all my affection
I would walk by your side to the very end
Just to have you become my very best friend

Chorus 2

Can you please tell me where friends come from
Are they hiding in plain sight
Then light up like the sun
Then for sure I would know which one is right

And not feel so totally muddy
Take your hand in mine and call you my buddy

(Eden enters the stage on Chorus 2, lost in his own sadness, sits down on a bench, doesn't notice Ella singing.)

Tag

If I say hello
Will you answer me back
With a smile and hello
That says
I like you too.

ELLA

(waves to Eden)

EDEN

(waves hesitantly back to Ella)

ELLA

(Walks over slowly to him, with funny steps that get more pronounced the closer she gets. EDEN is perplexed, amused, then laughs on the beat of her last step)

Hello, my name is Ella, Are you okay?

EDEN

Are You okay? You're walking kind of funny.

ELLA

That's my getting to know you walk If you laugh then it's okay for me to say hi. And you did ... So, Hi!

(Eden waves a subtle hello, still unsure about this girl)

EDEN

Hi.. My name is Eden, and no I don't think I am going to like it here, those kids made fun of my picture... and ran off.

ELLA

I get that, they ran away from me too.

May I see?

EDEN

(Eden reluctantly shows his picture to her)

ELLA

I think it's beautiful, they obviously don't know much about art. It is in the eye of the beholder, and what I'm beholding here is very cool.

EDEN

You really think so?

ELLA

I do. I think it's one of a kind and special. I'd be happy to trade you this emerald marble for it—and if you'd like, I'll add this feather I found today.

EDEN

Why would you want to do that, you don't even know me.

ELLA

I don't need to know you to begin to know you. That starts with small things, and the first moments people share together. Like what we're doing now.

EDEN

I suppose that's true. I haven't lived somewhere long enough to make friends for very long.

ELLA

I move around a lot too, I just got here myself, trying my best to fit in but those girls aren't making it easy. I they were a new kid, instead of me, I'd be nicer. It's tough finding friends. I understand. *(sighing)* Now... I am a little bit sad myself,

(ELLA and EDEN sing)

WHERE DO I BELONG**EDEN**

Seems like everything I do is wrong
I use to be happy
Where do I belong
Can't seem to put one foot to the next
I'm confused I don't know what's best.
When I have something to say
Someone interrupts and my words blow away

ELLA

When I try to help out someone says you're doing it wrong
They don't teach me just takeover the task I am on.

ELLA AND EDEN

When I show them a picture I took time to create
They tell me about all the mistakes that I made

EDEN

When I'm angry or sad
they just say calm down
Don't act crazy
Stop being so mad

ELLA AND EDEN

I feel like a kite that's lost its string
Flying off into nowhere
In a mighty wind
Where is a hand to hold mine
When I feel all alone
Someone who listens
A shoulder to cry on
Someone who will help me find
My laugh

ELLA

Tells me good things about me
Even when I'm silly and daft

ELLA AND EDEN

I feel invisible
Not really here
lost in a vacuum
Swimming in tears
Who am I to them

**Why can't they see
I am a bright light**

ELLA

That's who I am

To me

*(Ella puts her hand on Edens' shoulder and hands him her marble and
Eden hands her his picture)*

ELLA

We will be okay

ACT ONE SCENE 2:

*(TAJ, and AIDA, enter wheeling their butterfly and treasure flower cart
that chimes with bells that jingle together. They stop to see Eden and Ella
looking glum)*

TAJ

OH, what do we have here...

AIDA

A couple of sad kiddos It looks like Taj

TAJ

Hey kids...There's a whole different way to look at things.

AIDA

That's right, you can choose to be happy and sometimes, and
sooner than not whatever is bothering you fixes itself.

EDEN

But I want people to like me.

AIDA

First you must love yourself and then all good things will come to you.

EDEN

How do I do that?

AIDA and TAJ

By having fun!

PLAYFUL VIBES

[Intro] AIDA

**Oh, let's bounce, let's groove, let's play, eh
Feel the rhythm, come on, sway!**

[Verse 1]

**Sometimes it's hard to find the right words,
When you're feeling deep, like a flock of birds.
Fluttering thoughts are like clouds in the sky,
But the heart's got a song that's ready to fly.
So here's a little magic, just let it out,
Make up the sounds, let the joy shout!
Shora, Sha-elun, it's a brand new day,
Let the music guide you, come on, let's play!**

[Chorus] TAJ AND AIDA

**Happy bounce up and down,
Shake it out into the ground,
No matter if you're in sad land, happy, or mad,
On a spree, being dreamy, or silly with glee.**

**It's all your choice, use your voice,
Please repeat after me...**

[Hook] TAJ

**Luminae, Isha-arū, Varen-tael,
Yaky dodah Mookak Zibell!**

**If it makes sense to you, that is all that matters,
Why let words in your brain just run amok and clatter?**

[Verse 2] AIDA

**Like the stream that flows, plinking and plopping,
Catch the vibes, keep your heart hopping.
No box to fit in, just let it be free,
Your feelings express, it's a jubilee!
So wave your arms, spin around,
Make a symphony without making a sound.
Shora, Sha-elun, Maraiya, Oneth,
Then-ael ahh, then take a breath.**

[Chorus] AIDA, TAJ

**Happy bounce up and down,
Shake it out into the ground,
No matter if you're in sad land, happy, or mad,
On a spree, being dreamy, or silly with glee.
It's all your choice, use your voice,
Please repeat after me...**

[Hook] TAJ

**Luminae, Isha-arū, Varen-tael,
Yaky dodah Mookak Zibell!**

**If it makes sense to you, that is all that matters,
Why let words in your brain just run amok and clatter?**

[Bridge] AIDA

**Let's melt the worries, dance away the frowns,
 With a whirl and a sway, let's shake off the downs.
 Life's a painted canvas, splashed with our hearts,
 Every brushstroke counts, that's where it starts!**

[Chorus 2] TAJ & AIDA

(Eden and Ella Dance on the chorus)

**Happy bounce up and down,
 Shake it out into the ground,
 No matter if you're in sad land, happy, or mad,
 On a spree, being dreamy, or silly with glee.
 It's all your choice, use your voice,
 Please repeat after me...**

[Outro] TAJ

**Luminae, Isha-arū, Varen-tael,
 Yaky dodah Mookak Zibell,
 Feel the groove, let it break all the chains,
 With Shora, Sha-elun, we'll dance through the rains.**

AIDA

La, La, La, La Laaaaa!

TAJ

(hands them each a butterfly pinwheel)

If the mind has a mind too, the heart must agree. Make a wish and
 blow on the pinwheel and feel what you believe.

(Eden and Ella blow on their pinwheels, the stage swirls in colored lights, there are stars that appear in holograms. The stage is filled with holograms of butterflies, fairies, rainbows, ships. Eden and Ella reach out to touch them. Taj and Aida smile in wondrous admiration. Dancing Fairies fly in and gather the stars in nets, they pour them over Eden and Ella, and the Fairies disappear in the air.)

TAJ AND AIDA

BUTTERFLY WISHES

[Verse 1] TAJ

**Make a wish upon a star, let it guide your way,
In the heart of the night, dreams are here to stay.
Shining bright, like a beacon in the dark,
Believe in yourself, ignite that inner spark.
You can be more than you know, if you just believe,
Go far with your dreams, let your spirit weave.
Past the moon and beyond the sea,
To a place inside, where you can be free.**

[Chorus] AIDA

**Where all is calm, all is bright,
All is love, honest and right.
Like a seed that grows into a tree,
With every breath, you can be wild and free.
Send your dreams into the sky,
Butterfly, Butterfly, oh Butterfly,
Open your heart, clear your mind,
In that space, your truth you'll find.**

[Verse 2] TAJ

With a faithful heart, shining strong like the sun,
All the best that's in you, it has just begun.
What you sow, so you reap, hear the calling of your soul,
Stand upright, be you smart, let the love take hold.
Through the storms and through the rain,
Let the worries wash away, embrace the joy and pain.
You're more than shadows, more than fear—
Believe in who you are, let the light come near.

[Chorus] AIDA

Where all is calm, all is bright,
All is love, honest and right.
Like a seed that grows into a tree,
With every breath, you can be wild and free.
Send your dreams into the sky,
Butterfly, Butterfly, oh Butterfly,
Open your heart, clear your mind,
In that space, your truth you'll find.

[Bridge] TAJ

Just when the caterpillar thought her life was done,
She began to fly, under the radiant sun.
Transformation is a miracle, don't let it pass by,
Embrace the changes, let your spirit fly high.
In your journey, you will find the beauty of your grace,
Let your dreams take flight, let them find their place.

[Chorus] AIDA

Where all is calm, all is bright,
All is love, honest and right.

**Like a seed that grows into a tree,
With every breath, you can be wild and free.**

TAJ

**Send your dreams into the sky,
Butterfly, Butterfly, oh Butterfly,
Open your heart, clear your mind,
In that space, your truth you'll find.**

[Outro] TAJ AND AIDA IN HARMONY

**Make a wish, let it soar,
Say it loud, ask for more.
Butterfly, oh Butterfly, shine on through the night,
With hope in your heart, everything feels right.
Make a wish upon a star; believe in all you are,
Embrace your dreams and go far, Butterfly, you're a shining star.**

TAJ

(pointing to all the holograms flying in the air)

Now that's something I've 'never seen before... you two are more
imaginative than you know,

AIDA

Look at what you created! It's so beautiful.

EDEN

We did that?

ELLA

We must be magical

AIDA

You always have been, you just remembered.

EDEN

I think it was the dance that brought it on.

TAJ

And those frowns you FINALLY turned into smiles.

EDEN

But what about other people, if only they could see it too... How can we help them see the magic that is all around them?

ELLA

What can we do?

TAJ

If they are curious, and want to feel it, they will come to know it themselves in their own time. One can only be who they are and maybe that is enough to show someone that things could be different. This is within everyone; they would have to choose it. Just shine on with kindness in every moment. That is all anyone can do.

ELLA

It sure would be nice if people weren't mean to each other.

AIDA

A hurting heart often speaks in thorns before it remembers how to bloom. All you can do is be kind and true to yourself

TAJ

When you remember this, all will follow what is the best good for everyone. We have somewhere to go in a world just waiting for us all to show up. We are so happy we met you, and you showed up just at the right time.

*(Aida and Taj exit wheeling their cart and humming as they go
Ella and Eden see a butterfly and chase it singing.*

GOING ON MY WAY

ELLA

**Wake up Wake up the birds are singing
Do you hear them greet the day what we think we've become
So, I decide I will have a good day**

EDEN

**I will gather flowers and give them to my mother
I'll play with my friends and share my toys with others**

ELLA

**Give a Hug and share a laugh
Fill my heart with promise
Another bright Tomorrow**

ELLA AND EDEN

**I'm Going on My Way
I choose what I want to say
I look into my feelings
Then talk my way through**

I am Letting it go

I am thankful for all I have

Abundantly I am

I have the power within

To merrily roll along

I'm going on my way

I'm Going on My Way

Instrumental Break

ELLA

Woah, Woah, oh, oh

Give a hug and share a laugh fill my heart with

The promise of another bright tomorrow

Ella and Eden

I'm Going on My Way

I choose what I want to say

I look into my feelings then talk my way through

I'm letting go, I am thankful

For all I have abundantly I am

I have the power within to merrily roll along

I'm going on my way

I'm going on my way

(Ella and Eden skip and run off laughing with their pinwheels)

Intermission

ACT TWO SCENE ONE: *(Troika enters and yells off stage)***TROIKA**

Who needs you anyway, you are a bother to me anyway!

(mutters to herself)

I cannot always think about what they want to play, I had it all planned out and now they've changed their minds. I don't want to go to the zoo; I wanted them to stay here with me and build a fort.

(yells again off stage)

Just go on then! I don't care!

(Kicks a rock on her way to the swing or bench, she swings slowly and begins to sing)

TROIKA**BOSSY WAS BEST**

I can't let you in

And be a friend

I don't even know what that's supposed to mean

If I do something for you

I expect you to do something for me that's the way I've always been

And if you don't

I'll make them pay

Boss them around till

I get my way

But lately it hasn't worked so well

No matter how mean I get

I can't curtail them

To do what I want

Play when I want to play
Or make them say
what I want them to say
They just push me away
And leave me alone
I don't understand
It always worked before
Bossy was best
But that doesn't work anymore
I don't understand why I'm not in command
Why they can't see that's just me
They liked it before
Bossy was best
But that
But that doesn't, doesn't work anymore
Yeah but that doesn't work anymore
Hmmm

(She sits on the bench)

(Eden and Ella enter.)

EDEN

There's Troika, she looks sad.

ELLA

I feel kind of sorry for her, A hurting heart often speaks in thorns
before it remembers how to bloom.

EDEN

Maybe she needs someone to care for her, just like we do.
(The two walked toward the bench. Troika glances up, immediately defensive.)

TROIKA

"What do you want?"

ELLA

(smiling softly)

Nothing, really. We just thought you looked lonely."

TROIKA

"I'm not lonely."

EDEN

(Speaking gently)

You're sitting alone talking to a rock

TROIKA

(Troika looks down at the pebble near her foot.)

It's a very interesting rock.

(To everyone's surprise, Ella laughs. Not a mean laugh. A real one. Warm as sunlight)

TROIKA

(Troika blinks)

You're weird

EDEN

(Replies proudly)

We've heard that a lot

(For a moment, nobody speaks Ella sits beside her on the bench.)

ELLA

You know, when we first got here, we thought everyone didn't like us.

TROIKA

Most of us didn't.

EDEN

Maybe, we don't know why ... we like ourselves.
(Eden sits on the other side of Trioka)

But Ella and me agreed on something.

TROIKA

What's that, that you're both a couple of wierdos?

EDEN

That being mean back feels terrible, and we don't want to be like that.

ELLA

(Nodding)

Yeah, it's like swallowing a mouthful of rainwater from a boot

TROIKA

(SNORTS OUT A LAUGH)

EDEN

See? You laughed.

TROIKA

I did not.

ELLA

You absolutely boot-water laughed

TROIKA

(A tiny smile tugs at the corner of Troika's mouth, but it disappears quickly).

You don't get it, if you aren't tough, people walk all over you.

ELLA

"Did somebody walk all over you?"

TROIKA

(hesitantly speaks and sadly expresses)

My old school... People used to make fun of me all the time. So, when I got here, I just bossed everyone too, so it wouldn't happen to me again.

EDEN

So, you built armor around your heart.

TROIKA

(Frowning, perplexed)

"What?"

ELLA

The mean stuff the grumpy bossy emotions that wrap around you until you can't breathe. It's armor. But armor gets heavy after a while.

TROIKA

No one's ever nice just to be nice,

EDEN

Yes they are

TROIKA

Why?

EDEN

Because it feels amazing

ELLA

Seriously. Have you ever noticed how being a kind being makes your chest feel lighter?

TROIKA

Like opening a window in a stuffy room?

EDEN

Exactly... You kind of float for a moment and a parade of music begins to play in your heart.

TROIKA

(This time louder)

A parade?

EDEN

With tiny trumpets

ELLA

You don't have to keep hurting people to protect yourself

TROIKA

What if nobody likes the real me?

EDEN

The real you is the best you

TROIKA

I don't know what that feels like I've been bossy so long it's all I know

ELLA

We can help you find the real you again. It begins with having fun

TROIKA

What kind of fun is that?

(Ella jumps up from the bench and sings Make a Silly Face)

ELLA**MAKE A SILLY FACE****[Verse 1]**

Hey there, sunshine, come join the fun,
Make a silly face, let's get it done,
Stick out your tongue, give it a shake,
Who says being goofy is a mistake?
A smile's the cherry to top it off,
Dance in the laughter, let your worries scoff.
Wiggles and giggles, my friends, come on,
Lee La Lou ker poff! Let's sing this song!

[Chorus] EDEN AND ELLA

Shake your body with a happy bounce,
Sway to the rhythm, feel your spirit flounce.
Feel the electricity shining so bright,
Golden light around you, oh, what a sight!

[Verse 2]

Body in motion, like a wave on the sea,
Every wiggle and jiggle, just wild, carefree.
We're flying like birds, in a perfect V,
Harmonizing with nature, just you and me.

**Remember the joy that the earth can give,
One with the trees, oh, that's how we live!**

[Chorus] EDEN AND ELLA

**Shake your body with a happy bounce,
Sway to the rhythm, feel your spirit flounce.
Feel the electricity shining so bright,
Golden light around you, oh, what a sight!**

[Bridge] ELLA

**Joyful life embracing all that's true,
Nature's soft whispers just waiting for you.
Remember, remember, hear it on the wind,
Sway like the trees, let your heart ascend.
Embrace the sunlight, let it warm your face,
Dance in the magic of this lovely space.**

[Verse 3] ELLA

**Hop and twirl, let your worries fly,
In this playful moment, we can touch the sky.
Every giggle echoes, every smile a spark,
Together we shine, even when it's dark.
Lean into the joy, don't let it fade,
With every silly face, a new memory made.**

[Chorus] EDEN AND ELLA

**Shake your body with a happy bounce,
Sway to the rhythm, feel your spirit flounce.
Feel the electricity shining so bright,
Golden light around you, oh, what a sight!**

[Outro] EDEN AND ELLA

**So let's gather 'round and embrace the cheer,
In the dance of laughter, let go of the fear.**

**Make a silly face, let your heart sing,
In the melody of life, we're free to bring.**

[Outro] ELLA

**A world where joy is the only song,
Come on, my friend, let's all sing along!**

TROIKA

How can we have fun so soon... aren't you still mad at me? ... I was awful to you.

EDEN

(Cheerfully)

You were

TROIKA

(groaning)

You're supposed to say no you weren't.

ELLA

We're kind Not liars

TROIKA

(laughs)

ELLA

(Ella reaches into her pocket and pulls out a small, folded paper butterfly.)

For you

TROIKA

Why?

EDEN

Because everyone deserves another chance

TROIKA

(She holds the butterfly carefully in her palm as if it might break; everyone is quiet. The butterfly flies off across the stage and grows. The clinking and chiming of the butterfly cart are heard off stage as Aida and Taj enter).

TAJ

Hello there young butterflies, I see you have found a new friend.

ELLA

She was just sitting here all sad and mad and we took a chance to talk to her. But I'm not sure she is convinced that being nice is better than being mean.

TROIKA

I have been this way for so long, I don't know where to start.

AIDA

Did you sing her the silly face song?

EDEN

We did and that helped a little bit.

AIDA

Hmm... I see more magic might be required.

What story books do you like to read? What characters bring you a giggle.

TROIKA

I dunno... The princess stories make me mad, they are always so good, and I'm not. And the animal stories make me sad, some poor little creature can't find her mama, or they are lost in some land that they can't get back home from. So, I quit reading or turn the movie off.

AIDA

Yes, that does seem to be the predictable plot

(Taj pulls out a huge story book from the cart and opens a blank page).

TAJ

If you wrote a story what would you like it to be about?

TROIKA

Hmm... Dragons. Dragons get a bad rap; they are fierce and protect us guard the world and can fly high above the nonsense.

EDEN

You like dragons? I do too!

TROIKA

They are more fun than what people think and they don't just breathe fire, they can breathe out flowers too, and make plants and trees grow, they live in the mountains and want us to be,,,

(Feeling vulnerable she hesitates)

ELLA

Brave?

TROIKA

Yes

TAJ

Touch the page

(Troika touches the page and pink smoke comes out and swirls around them)

(Taj turns the page and everything Troika said is in the picture. The dragon is standing on a mountain blowing out flowers. Taj sings...and as he sings a fun little dragon enters and dances with them.)

DANCING DRAGON

**There came a gusty wind
blowing through the trees
A dragon appeared
And he began to sneeze
No fire came out
Just flowers in the breeze**

**Then he began to dance
Wiggled all around
And out of nowhere
Music began to sound
He sang
Didn't know I could do that
It surprised me too
I thought it was just fire
That only dragons blew
Oh my wonder, skippity do
Let's dance together just me and you
Hi ho, dosey doe, rumba roony
Let it all go**

**We can change things for the better
This we all know
Ya, Ya, Hmm yeah
Let it all go**

(Troika, Taj and Eden and Ella all laugh. Aida appears with magic wands that look like lit up pens and paint brushes and hands one to Ella, Eden, and Troika.)

AIDA

Always keep your desires near, invent, paint, cook just be the kind of person you would want to have for a friend. Remember there is no one in the whole world just like you and when you find friends who accept you for who you are, then that my friend is a true friend,

EDEN, ELLA AND TROIKA

(TOGETHER SAY)

WE WILL

(laugh)

THANK YOU

(Ella, Eden and Troika wave their wands)

TAJ

Golden Soul

[Verse 1]

**Oh, golden soul, beautiful one,
Doesn't matter how you look or how fast you run.
You shine like a beacon, you're perfect as you are,
A flicker of brilliance, a dazzling star.
In all the world, there's no one like you,
Unique in every way, let the truth come through.
Since the day of your birth, you've lit up the sky,
A sun in your spirit, let your colors fly.**

[Chorus] all

**Shine bright with the light that is all your own,
Let love fill your heart and dance in your bones.
For you are your own music, an anthem so true,
And within this melody, you are home, too.**

TAJ

[Verse 2]

**Follow your bliss, let kindness be your way,
It's as simple as this, in the light of each day.
Live every moment, be present right now,
Know that you are loved, just take a humble bow.
Yes, you belong, can't you hear that sweet song?
It whispers a promise that you've been all along.
So rise up and dance, there's magic in each step,
Let joy be your guide, take that leap, don't prep.**

[Chorus] ALL

**Shine bright with the light that is all your own,
Let love fill your heart and dance in your bones.**

TAG

**For you are your own music, an anthem so true,
And within this melody, you are home, too.**

[Bridge]

**Celebrate your journey, every twist and turn,
With each breath that you take, let your spirit burn.
You're a canvas of dreams, painted with grace,
A story unfolding, in every embrace.**

TAJ & AIDA

**Dance through the shadows, let them know your name,
For the world needs your light, so don't play it tame.
In the laughter, in the tears, find what makes you whole,
In the rhythm of life, just follow your soul.**

[Chorus] ALL

**Shine bright with the light that is all your own,
Let love fill your heart and dance in your bones.
For you are your own music, an anthem so true,
And within this melody, you are home, too.**

[Outro] TAJ

**Dear golden soul, sparkle and soar,
Embrace all your beauty, let your spirit roar.
With a heart full of love and a song in the air,
You'll shine forever, you're beyond compare.**

OOO AHHH

(Lights come up on the audience as an instrumental reprise of the song Golden Soul plays.)

TAJ

Stand and Shine All Bright stars that you already are

(The cast comes down off the stage and dances with the audience returns to the stage for a curtain call)