

# Took The Children Away

Archie Roach

This story's right, this story's true  
I would not tell lies to you  
Like the promises they did not keep  
And how they fenced us in like sheep.  
Said to us come take our hand  
Sent us off to mission land.  
Taught us to read, to write and pray  
Then they took the children away,  
Took the children away,  
The children away.  
Snatched from their mother's breast  
Said this is for the best  
Took them away. The welfare and the policeman  
Said you've got to understand  
We'll give them what you can't give  
Teach them how to really live.  
Teach them how to live they said  
Humiliated them instead  
Taught them that and taught them this  
And others taught them prejudice.  
You took the children away  
The children away  
Breaking their mothers heart  
Tearing us all apart  
Took them away One dark day on Framingham  
Come and didn't give a damn  
My mother cried go get their dad  
He came running, fighting mad  
Mother's tears were falling down  
Dad shaped up and stood his ground.  
He said 'You touch my kids and you fight me' And they took us from our family.  
Took us away  
They took us away  
Snatched from our mother's breast  
Said this was for the best  
Took us away. Told us what to do and say  
Told us all the white man's ways  
Then they split us up again  
And gave us gifts to ease the pain

Sent us off to foster homes  
As we grew up we felt alone  
Cause we were acting white  
Yet feeling black  
One sweet day all the children came back  
The children come back  
The children come back  
Back where their hearts grow strong  
Back where they all belong  
The children came back  
Said the children come back  
The children come back  
Back where they understand  
Back to their mother's land  
The children come back  
Back to their mother  
Back to their father  
Back to their sister  
Back to their brother  
Back to their people  
Back to their land  
All the children come back  
The children come back  
The children come back  
Yes I came back.

Songwriters

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Published by  
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