

A young child is sitting on the floor, surrounded by a large number of puzzle pieces. The child is looking down at the pieces, appearing to be in the middle of solving a puzzle. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

A young child sits on the floor alone, pondering

His eyes wander to the myriad of puzzle pieces scattered before him . . .

He reaches out hesitantly to touch them, yearning to begin, yet not knowing where to start

Grasping a handful, he observes the various shapes and sizes He is captivated by the uniqueness of each piece, and wonders how he will unite them into a whole

First, he selects the brightest and largest piece

A cursory search for connecting pieces proves to be futile, making a more thorough examination necessary

He becomes frustrated as seemingly small and trivial pieces fail to interlock

He hurls them to the floor, ready to give up — yet once again he is drawn to the challenge before him

Remarkably, a piece he picks eases into place

Another links

And another . . .

The motif on the face of the puzzle becomes apparent as each piece leads to others

A smile of satisfaction lights the child's face as he observes his progress . . .

He works fervently, absorbed in the task, coming closer and closer to completion

Triumphantly, he places his last remaining piece into the puzzle and leans back

Yet, he notices several gaps where pieces should have been . . .

The child remains on the floor alone, pondering . . .

Debbie Sweetwood, Leslie Kmak