

The Path

(2:52)

I walk in steady rhythm.
One step and then another.
I'm always moving forward.
I hear the voices:
Stay on the path!

They keep me fully focused.
I suffer no distractions.
No chance of interruptions.
Oh, look a rabbit!
Stay on the path!

I know I'm going somewhere.
They say it's real important.
I'd like to take a break
And step into the river.
"Stay on the path!"

I hear the beat go tromp, tromp.
So I march along.
Eyes straight ahead.
The path is flat and paved.
It leads me through the fog, to the fog.

There may be nasty spiders,
And lots of poison ivy.
There's pointy rocks
And gravity could make you stumble.
Stay on the path!

There is a plastic liner.
It keeps the weeds from growing.
Although I know of one
That's peeking through the asphalt.
Keep off the grass!

Poor little green invader.
You don't belong here.
Go away.
The path has no room for you yet.

And so I lumber onward.
With someone else's vision.
And when I long for something new
I just remember:
Stay on the path!

There is a single footprint.
It's in the mud beside me.
Someone went off.
I wonder if they heard the voices?
Stay on the path!

I see the carrot dangling from
The stick in front, before me.
I feel the driver tap me gently
On the rump, with a thump, thump.

Poor little green invader,
Growing so lonely.
You should be with your cousins
In the fields by the river.
Someone could bring you to your home.
Maybe I should.
Think of the cost.
I'd need to wander from the path,
To the river grasses.
Think of the loss.
What do you think the world would say?
Stay on the path, maybe.
Or not.

The Path

(2:52)

for SSA Voices *a cappella*

Words and Music

Glenn Simonelli

$\text{♩} = 112$ *mf*

Soprano 1
stead-y then

Soprano 2
mf
rhy-thm. One step

Alto
mf
I walk in and an-oth-er.

3 *ff* *ff* *ff*

Soprano 1
mov-ing Stay on the

Soprano 2
for-ward. voice - s:

Alto
I'm al-ways I hear the Stay on the

5 *mf* *mf*

Soprano 1
path! full - y no

Soprano 2
(acting startled)
They keep me foc-used.

Alto
path! *mf*
I suf - fer no dis - trac - tions.

3
7

in - ter - rup - tion. a rab - bit!

No chance of Stay on the

in - ter - rup - tion. Oh, look Stay on the

9

(acting startled)

I know I'm some - where. real im - por - tant.

path! go - ing They say it's

path! tromp tromp slog tromp tromp

11

take a break step in - to - the - riv - er.

I'd like to and step in - to Stay on the

slog tromp tromp slog Stay on the

13

I hear the beat go tromp, tromp. So I march
 path! tromp-ing tromp-ing slog a -
 path! the beat go tromp-ing tromp-ing slog March a -

16

tromp-ing tromp-ing slog tromp-ing tromp-ing
 long. tromp tromp slog tromp-ing tromp-ing
 unis.
 long. Eyes straight a - head. The path is

18

slog tromp-ing tromp-ing slog through the
 slog tromp-ing tromp-ing slog the
 flat and paved. It leads me through the

5
20

div

fog, to the fog.

div

fog, to the fog.

div.

p

fog, to the fog. tromp - ing tromp - ing

22

unis.

nas - ty and lots of

mf

There may be spi - ders poi - son iv - y.

p unis.

nas - ty spi - ders poi - son iv - y

24

ff

There's point-y rocks, could make you Stay on the

ff

and grav-i - ty Stay on the

mf

point-y rocks, and grav-i - ty could make you stum-ble.

26

mf

path! lin - er. from grow - ing.

p

path! plas - tic lin - er. No weeds

(acting startled)

There is a plas - tic It keeps the weeds

28

that's peek ing through the as - phalt.

mf

ff

grow - ing. one that's peek ing through Keep off the

ff

Al-though I know of one that's peek ing through Keep off the

30

Poor _____ You _____

mf

grass! lit - tle green don't be - long Go a -

mf

grass! in - vad - er. You here. Go a -

7

34

way. room for you_____

way. The path has no room left for you_____

way. left for you_____

38

yet. tromp tromp slog tromp tromp

yet. tromp tromp slog tromp tromp

yet. And so I lumb-er on-ward. With some-one else'-s vis-sion.

41

slog long for some-thing new re-mem-ber:

slog tromp tromp slog Stay on the

And when I long for some-thing new I just Stay on the

43

There is a sin-gle foot - print. Keep off the
 path! Stay on the path. be-side me.
 path! It's in the mud

45

grass. if they heard the voice-s?
 I won der if they heard Stay on the
 Some-one went off. I won der if they heard Stay on the

47

I see the car - rot dan - gling
 path! I see the car - rot
 path! tromp tromp slog tromp tromp

9

49

from the stick in front. Keep off the
 slog tromp tromp slog tromp tromp
 dang-ling from the stick be-fore me.

51

grass! I feel the driv-er
 I feel the
 I feel the driv-er tap me

53

I feel the driv-er tap me gent-ly on the rump with a
 driv-er tap me gent-ly on the rump with a
 gent-ly on the rump with a

55 unis. *pp* \leftarrow *mf*

thump. Poor lit - tle green in - vad - er, grow - ing so

f *p* \leftarrow *mf*

thump. Thump! Poor lit - tle green in - vad - er

f *mf* unis.

thump. Thump! star - ing so

59

lone - ly. Stay on the path! be with your cou - sins

unis.

You should be with your cou - sins in the fields by the

lone - ly Stay on the path! your cou - sins in the

63

Some - one could bring you to your home

riv - er. Keep off the grass Bring you home. May be

div. unis.

fields. Keep off the grass Some - one could bring you home

11
67

Think of the cost. I need to wan-der to the

I should. I'd need to wan-der from the path.

Think of the cost. Stray from the

71

riv - er grass - es. What do you think the world would say?_____

Think of the loss.

path. Think of the loss.

75

p *mf* *p*

— Stay on the path. May-be. Or not._____

div. *p*

Stay on the path. May-be. not._____

Stay on the path. May-be. not._____