

From "Dressing Amelia" by Chloe Whitehorn

AMELIA:

Is that what she said? That she was a good mother? Of course she did. Why would she ever think she wasn't good at something. No one thinks they're not good at things they want to be good at. I mean no one ever describes themselves as being bad at something, unless they're using it as an excuse or something like, "oh I messed up on my taxes? Well I've never been good at math." Or if they want you to contradict them like "oh you think the pie I made is delicious? Well gosh, I mean I'm not really much of a chef." And it's not like there's some standardized grading system for parents, get this score and you're good, this one and you fail. It's a sliding scale right? I mean yeah, of course there are worse parents. The ones who dropped their kids on their heads or sell them into child slavery or feed their kids nothing but spam. But should that really be the scale you're measuring yourself against as a parent? "Hmm, well my kid isn't bleeding from the head right now so I guess that makes me an excellent parent". Someone should come up with a system, something that measures a range of factors, and gives parents a score. Things like, how much therapy is my child going to require as an adult before she can function adequately in society? Or how unrealistic are my child's expectations going to be when they attempt to date people who weren't raised in a Disney fantasy land? Or, do you feel indignant that bluebirds don't fly through your window in the morning to dress you while singing your praises?