

Youth of the Nation

P.O.D.

Last day of the rest of my life
I wish I would have known cause I'd have kissed my momma good-bye
I didn't tell her that I loved her; how much I cared
Or thank my pops for all the talks and all the wisdom he shared
Unaware I just did what I always do
Everyday the same routine before I skate off to school
But who knew that this day wasn't like the rest
Instead of taking the test I took two to the chest

Call me blind but I didn't see it coming
And everybody was runnin
But I couldn't hear nothin, except
Gun blast, it happened so fast
I didn't really know this kid though I sat by him in class
Maybe this kid was reachin out for love or
Maybe for a moment he forgot who he was or
Maybe this kid just wanted to be hugged
Whatever it was I know it's because

We are, we are, [we are] the youth of the nation
We are, we are, [we are] the youth of the nation
We are, we are, [we are] the youth of the nation
We are, we are, [we are] the youth of the nation

Little Suzie, she was only twelve
She was given the world with every chance to excel
Hang with the boys and hear the stories they tell
She might act kinda proud but no respect for herself

She finds love in all the wrong places
The same situations just different faces
Changed up her pace since her daddy left her
Too bad he never told her she deserved much better

Johnny boy he always **played the fool**
He broke all the rules so you would think he was cool
He was never really one of the guys
No matter how hard he tried

Author's Purpose:

The song begins in the **first person** perspective of a victim of school gun violence but in the chorus, the **point of view** shifts to a **collective voice** using the word "we." Then the artist talks about "Little Suzie" and "Johnny boy" in **third person** before returning to **first person** again at the end to try to make sense of the violence. **What do you think is the author's purpose for shifting between points of view this way?**

Word Meanings:

This song includes this **figurative phrase** to describe Johnny boy's actions. Based on **context clues** and **background knowledge**, what does this phrase mean?

Often thought of suicide
It's kinda hard when you ain't got no friends
He put his life to an end they might remember him then
You cross a line and there is no turning back
He told the world how he felt with the sound of a gat

We are, we are, [we are] the youth of the nation
We are, we are, [we are] the youth of the nation
We are, we are, [we are] the youth of the nation
We are, we are, [we are] the youth of the nation

Who's to blame for the life that tragedies claim
No matter what you say it don't take away the pain
That I feel inside, I'm tired of all the lies
Don't nobody know why
It's the blind leadin' the blind
Guess that's the way that the story goes
Will it ever make sense somebody's gotta know
There's gotta be more to life than this
There's got to be more to everything
I thought exists

We are, we are... the youth of the nation
We are, we are... the youth of the nation
We are, we are [we are, we are] the youth of the nation
We are, we are [we are, we are] the youth of the nation
We are, we are [we are, we are] the youth of the nation [the youth of the nation]
We are, we are [we are, we are] the youth of the nation [the youth of the nation]
We are, we are [we are, we are] the youth of the nation [the youth of the nation]
We are, we are [we are, we are] the youth of the nation [the youth of the nation]
We are [the youth of the nation]
We are [the youth of the nation]
We are [the youth of the nation]
We are...

Generalizations and Conclusions:

What seems to be the central question this song is attempting to pose?

Supporting Details:

Highlight portions of text that contribute to this central idea or question.