Don’t Laugh at Me

Allen Shamblin / Steve Seskin

I'm a little boy with glasses
The one they call the geek
A little girl who never smiles
'Cause I've got braces on my teeth
And I know how it feels
To cry myself to sleep.

I'm that kid on every playground
Who's always chosen last
A single teenage mother
Tryin’ to overcome my past
You don't have to be my friend
Is it too much to ask?

Don't laugh at me, don't call me names
Don't get your pleasure from my pain
In God's eyes we're all the same
Someday we'll all have perfect wings
Don't laugh at me.

I'm the cripple on the corner
You pass me on the street
I wouldn't be out here beggin'
If I had enough to eat
And don't think I don't notice
That our eyes never meet.

I lost my wife and little boy
Someone crossed that yellow line
The day we laid 'em in the ground
Is the day I lost my mind
Right now I'm down to holdin'
This little cardboard sign.

Don't laugh at me, don't call me names
Don't get your pleasure from my pain
In God's eyes we're all the same
Someday we'll all have perfect wings
Don't laugh at me.

I'm fat, I'm thin, I'm short, I'm tall
I'm deaf, I'm blind, hey aren't we all?

Don't laugh at me, don't call me names
Don't get your pleasure from my pain
In God's eyes we're all the same
Someday we'll all have perfect wings
Don't laugh at me.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

The ________________ appears in the chorus and states the main idea of the song.

Each ________________ has the same words.

The ________________ have different words but the same tune.

The chorus summarizes the main idea or ________________ of the song.

The verses give supporting ________________ about the main idea of the song.

The ________________ introduces a slightly different idea.

It is shorter than the verses and chorus.

The ________________ is the part of the song that is repeated often and easily remembered. What do you think it is in this song?
Answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Print out or write down the lyrics to one of your favorite songs. This song should be appropriate for school use.

2. Label the following parts on the lyrics:
   - Title
   - Verse
   - Chorus
   - Bridge
   - Hook

3. What is the theme of the song? Why do you think so? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

4. Paying attention to how the songwriter’s ideas are organized, use what you have learned in class about song structure to outline the song.

**Challenge:** Pick two or three more songs and outline them, as well.

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**REMEMBER**

- The **title** states the main idea and often appears in the chorus.
- The **hook** is the part of the song that is repeated often and is easily remembered. The hook usually has all or part of the title in it.
- Each **verse** has different words but the same tune.
- Each **chorus** has the same words.
- The chorus summarizes the **theme**, or main idea, of the song. The verses give supporting details for the theme.
- The **bridge** introduces a slightly different idea. It is often shorter than the verses and chorus.