

Stressed out

by Twenty one Pilots

Before listening activities

1. Answer the questions:

- When were you the most stressed out? What did you do to handle the situation? What do you wish you had known in that moment?
- Do you ever wish you could travel in time to experience a moment one more time? Or to spend more time with a loved one?
- If you could use one word to describe your childhood/early teenage years, which word would you choose?

2. Let's watch the official video. What vibes do you get from it?



- What elements called your attention? Why?
- How would you describe the sound of the song?

listening activities

1. Complete with the verbs in the box

I wish I _____ some better sounds no one's ever heard
I wish I _____ a better voice that sang some better words
I wish I _____ some chords in an order that is new
I wish I _____ to rhyme every time I sang
I was _____ when I get older, all my fears would shrink
But now I'm insecure, and I care what people _____
My name's Blurryface and I care what you think (x2)

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HAD - TOLD - FOUND (X2) - THINK -
DIDN'T HAVE

CHORUS:

Wish we could turn back time to the good old days
When our mama sang us to sleep, but now we're stressed out
Wish we could turn back time to the good old days
When our mama sang us to sleep, but now we're stressed out...

We're stressed out

2. Complete the missing words.

_____ a certain smell will take me back to when I was young
How come I'm never able to identify where it's coming _____?
I'd make a candle out of it if I ever found it
Try to sell it, never sell, out of it, I'd probably only sell _____
It'd be to my _____, 'cause we have the same nose
Same clothes, homegrown, a stone's throw from a creek we used to roam
But it would remind us of when _____ really mattered
Out of student loans and tree house homes, we all would _____ the latter
My name's Blurryface and I care what you think (x2)

ONE - TAKE - SOMETIMES -
BROTHER - FROM -
NOTHING

CHORUS

3. Match the sentences halves. (This part is repeated twice)

Used to play pretend,	but now they're laughin' at our face
We would build a rocket ship,	give each other different names
Used to dream of outer space,	you need to make money, yeah.
Sayin', "Wake up,	and then we'd fly it far away

CHORUS

We used to play pretend, used to play pretend, money
We used to play pretend, wake up, you need the money x2
Used to play pretend, give each other different names
We would build a rocket ship, and then we'd fly it far away
Used to dream of outer space, but now they're laughin' at our face
Saying, "Wake up, you need to make money, " yeah

OPINION AND MESSAGE

1. Did you like the song? Is it something you would normally listen to?
2. What do you think is the message of the song? Read the following fragment from the POP SONG PROFESSOR'S BLOG. Do you agree?

"STRESSED OUT" IS ABOUT THE TRANSITION FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULthood. THE MUSIC IS INTENSE AND VARIED WITH A WIDE ARRAY OF STYLES BEING MASHED INTO THE ONLY 3:45 LONG, ALSO-UNIQUE MUSIC VIDEO, IN WHICH TYLER AND JOSH REVISIT THEIR CHILDHOOD HOMES AND FAMILIES TO RIDE KID'S THREE WHEELERS AND PERFORM IN THEIR OLD BEDROOMS."

3. Let's now read a more in-depth analysis (from the same post).

- IN THE FIRST VERSE, TYLER RAPS WITH A CLEAR, UNALTERED VOICE THAT HE WISHES HIS SONGS WERE BETTER. FROM THIS WISH, HIS SENTIMENTS BECOME MORE SERIOUS AND, TYLER ADMITS THAT HE'S NOT SURE OF HIMSELF AND THAT THOUGH HE DOESN'T WANT TO CARE "WHAT PEOPLE THINK," HE DOES.
- THE CHORUS IS A SIMPLE WISH FOR THE "GOOD OLD DAYS." BACK THEN, NO PROBLEM WAS LASTING OR SERIOUS ENOUGH THAT A SIMPLE NAP AND A SONG COULDN'T FIX IT.
- IN VERSE 2, TYLER RAPS ABOUT A SMELL THAT REMINDS HIM OF HIS CHILDHOOD. THAT SMELL GRANTS HIM A REPRIEVE FROM STRESS, AND HE IMAGINES SELLING IT AS A CANDLE BUT CONCLUDES THAT ONLY HIS BROTHER WOULD BUY IT SINCE THE SMELL WOULD ONLY MEAN SOMETHING TO SOMEONE WHO HAD SHARED TYLER'S CHILDHOOD.
- TYLER MENTIONS THAT THE SMELL "WOULD REMIND US OF WHEN NOTHING REALLY MATTERED," SUGGESTING THAT HE WANTS TO REVISIT THAT TIME. HE SINGS, "OUT OF STUDENT LOANS AND TREE HOUSE HOMES, WE ALL WOULD TAKE THE LATTER." FOR HIM, ADULT LIFE LOSES A CHILDHOOD INNOCENCE THAT COMES WITH FEELING SAFE FROM WORRIES. INSTEAD OF PLAYING, HE MUST WORK TO MAKE A LIVING AND PAY HIS BILLS.
- THE BRIDGE CONTINUES THE ROMANTICIZATION OF HIS CHILDHOOD BY DESCRIBING TIMES THAT HE AS A CHILD WOULD "PLAY PRETEND." HE MENTIONS THAT HE AND HIS FRIENDS WOULD IMAGINE THEY WERE GOING TO OUTER SPACE, SUGGESTING A CHILD-LIKE BELIEF IN LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES. NOW THAT HE HAS TO THINK ABOUT PAYING STUDENT LOANS, HIS OPPORTUNITIES FOR DREAMING ABOUT DOING BIG THINGS AND EXPLORING ARE FEWER.

What do you think of this analysis? Do you feel identified with Tyler's and Josh's desire?

VOCABULARY

1. Let's go back to the song. What words/phrases are new to you? Which one(s) do you find interesting?
2. Choose 4 new words/phrases and use them in context.

After listening activities

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WISHES - REVIEW

1. Look at the examples taken from the song. What tense do we use after WISH when talking about a wish for the PRESENT/FUTURE.

I WISH I FOUND SOME BETTER SOUNDS NO ONE'S EVER HEARD

I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO RHYME EVERY TIME I SANG

2. Look at some real life situations. What could be a wish in each case?

REALITY	WISH
"I AM TIRED".	
"I DON'T HAVE TIME TO RELAX"	
"I WORK ALL DAY".	
"I DON'T SLEEP ENOUGH".	

3. What happened when the wish was for a past situation?

4. Let's discuss some questions!

- Is there anything you wish you had done differently last year?
- What's one thing you wish had already been invented?
- What's one thing you wish hadn't been invented?
- Is there anything you wish you hadn't done this last week?

5. Let's play a game to practice!