

NOTES

In today's explosive environment, teenagers have reason to be concerned for their future. In her stream-of-consciousness poetic rant, Kendra Sparks delves into the minds of today's teenagers and asks some hard questions. This selection may be performed by a female or male and should be entered in Poetry Interpretation. The slash marks reflect internal pauses in thought, and the drama mask icons are simply visible to show the performer when to turn the pages of the manuscript.

I'm depressed /// I've *been* depressed for about a year now/// Holy cow!///
Do you know how liberating it is to finally admit that?/ It's like/ I was being
crushed in one of those superhero movies/ by two moving walls/ just slowly/
ever so slowly moving towards one another/ taking away my valuable real es-
tate/ But wait!—There's more!/ Just when I thought things could not *possibly*
get worse/ I get zits! Zits!/ On picture day!/ Hip-hip-hurrah! Hip-hip-hurrah!/
The cosmic universe is alive and well in the United States of Me/



So, why am I depressed?/ I'm not sure/ Why do snowmen melt?/Or better
yet—why do bears—/ why do *bears*—do what they do—/ out there in the
woods/ after all/ how much wood could a woodchuck chuck/ if a woodchuck
could chuck wood/ huh?///

And why *shouldn't* I be depressed?/ Why shouldn't *any of us* be depressed?///
People are so mean today/ They're just/ *mean*/// They're bullies/ That's what
it is/ The world has slowly been taken over by bullies/// and that's why we've
got to form a *league*/ a new league/ a league of people like you and me/ peo-
ple who don't want there to be anymore bullies in the world/// And we'll *bully*
those bullies if we have to/// We'll *bully* those bullies/ and we'll tell them/
We'll tell them that the *bullying stops today!*/ It stops today/ because there is
no place for bullies in this world/ And there's definitely not a place for bullies
in the United States of Me!///

And our new league will get so popular with all the great work we're doing/
that we'll start to say at the end of every great mission/ "Not in the United
States of Me!"/ And people will clap! Yes! People will *clap!*/// And I will get so
excited that I will *Tap* dance/// even though I've never had even one dance les-
son/ Unless you take into account that one week in fourth grade where we all
had to learn how to "square dance" for P.E. credit/ Yes, I will Tap dance!/ And
I will be good, too!/ I will be so good, that the people on *Dance Moms* and *So
You Think You Can Dance* and *World of Dance* and *Dancing with the Stars* will
stop/ They will stop and stare in awe at the level of difficulty in my Tap dance/
They will try to clap in time with my tapping/ but who are we kidding?/ In the
United States of Me, I am *too fast!*///