Talking about the video I have just watched, I have to first say, that I really enjoy the song, the band and the movie, but I can’t state that that I feel entirely positive about the actual story behind the song. As I understand it’s generally based on some form of altered personal experience of the author, who is represented by the boy. This is obvious, since the ‘poems’ the teacher reads are in fact parts of Pink Floyd lyrics.

The video sends an image of violent rebellion against the educational system of the time. It talks about teachers being too hard on their pupils, allowing no place for creative, independent thinking and abusing their authority over the children, eventually molding them into near identical things, incapable of independent thinking (represented by the masks). The children, however, rebel against this system, destroy their school and their classroom, set the tables on fire, and, it think, attempt to burn the teacher live. An interesting turn is that, the pupil, who was yelled at for writing poetry, turns out to have been daydreaming.

I think this video, as well as the song itself, like many Pink Floyd songs, is an attempt to show a problem of the society of their time, enhance it and let the public ponder on it, while listening to good music. Obviously, the situation in British schools of the time wasn’t that bad, or at least wasn’t that bad altogether.

I generally agree with the image of this video, if we remember that it’s all the daydream of a school kid who had just been yelled at. I thing that this story is simply a representation of the personal emotion of the child and through those an attempt at directing the thoughts of the public at problems in the school system.