

Subdivisions

Rush

Sprawling on the fringes of the city	In the backs of cars
In geometric order, an insulated border	15 Be cool or be cast out
In between the bright lights and the far unlit unknown	Any escape might help to smooth the unattractive truth
Growing up it all seems so one-sided	But the suburbs have no charms to soothe the restless dreams of youth
5 Opinions all provided, the future pre-decided	
Detached and subdivided in the mass production zone	Drawn like moths we drift into the city
Nowhere is the dreamer or the misfit so alone	The timeless old attraction, cruising for the action
	20 Lit up like a firefly just to feel the living night
Subdivisions—	
In the high school halls	Some will sell their dreams for small desires
10 In the shopping malls	Or lose the race to rats, get caught in ticking traps
Conform or be cast out	And start to dream of somewhere to relax their restless flight
Subdivisions—	
In the basement bars	Somewhere out of a memory of lighted streets on quiet nights

Questions for Discussion and Writing

1. Consider multiple meanings and connotations of the word *subdivisions*. In what ways do the lyrics reflect these meanings? Discuss specific examples.
2. Discuss the suburban world described in the song. What are its defining characteristics?
3. According to the lyrics and perhaps your own readings and personal experiences, in what ways are the lives of suburban residents subject to external control? Discuss the significance of lines 4-6 in connection with this issue.
4. Why do you think “dreamers and misfits” are so alone in the suburban world? What does it lack that makes it unable to “soothe the restless dreams of youth” (line 17)?
5. How are high school halls, shopping malls, basement bars, and backs of cars (lines 9-14) related? Explain.
6. Who are the people described in lines 21-24? In what ways might they “sell their dreams for small desires” and “get caught in ticking traps”? What are the “rats” a reference to? What do these people often end up deciding to do?
7. Why are people drawn to the city, and why are they drawn to the suburbs?
8. From what point of view and in what voice(s) is the song written? Why do you think the songwriter chose this approach to the subject?

Lyrics and Discussion Questions for “Subdivisions”