

**ANONYMOUS YOUTH**  
**A Song Cycle**

*[On stage is a classroom; and we see the desks and chairs, the whiteboard, the school motto “Learn to Love, Love To Learn”, school rules posters, and all the general upper primary school stuff. Miss Turner walks on stage carrying papers, containers, etc., and places them on her desk. The school bell rings, and Miss Turner readies herself for the entry of the children. They come in carrying their laptops and drink bottles. Each of the students are immediately in character: Dash is chatty, Joanna is drawing, Kathryn and Dianthe are alone, Charlotte and Sarah are loud and noisy, Kiara is wearing unusual clothing, Tamaya is studying her cue cards, Hagar is moving from friendship group to friendship group, Tameka and Terri are sitting together, and Martes is nowhere to be seen. The other students are all chatting and getting ready. They find their places and sit at their seats. A tone is heard over the PA system.]*

PA SYSTEM

Good morning students. Please stand for the school song.

*[The students stand. Cue Song 1: LEARN TO LOVE, LOVE TO LEARN.]*

WE COME HERE TO LEARN AND PLAY  
SIDE BY SIDE AND EVERY DAY  
LOOKING FORWARD, HOPES SET HIGH  
ALL WE DO, WE DO WITH PRIDE

WE ACHIEVE, WE GROW, WE STRIVE  
SOARING UPWARD, WE WILL THRIVE  
THROUGH THE YEARS OUR FIRE WILL BURN  
LEARN TO LOVE AND LOVE TO LEARN

THROUGH THE YEARS OUR FIRE WILL BURN  
LEARN TO LOVE AND LOVE TO LEARN

MISS TURNER

Good morning everyone.

STUDENTS

Good morning Miss Turner.

*[Cue Song 2: ROLL CALL. The school bell rings.]*

MISS TURNER

Okay everyone, please sit down; that's the bell. Let's mark the roll.

Joanna? MISS TURNER

Yes. JOANNA

Sarah? MISS TURNER

Yes! SARAH

Dash? MISS TURNER

Yep! DASH

Hagar? MISS TURNER

Yes. HAGAR

#### STUDENTS

EVERY SINGLE DAY IT'S JUST THE SAME  
RESPONDING EVERY TIME SHE CALLS MY NAME  
IT'S EITHER "YES" IF I AM HERE, OR A SILENCE IF I'M NOT  
AND IT'S TWO TIMES A DAY, TEN TIMES A WEEK, LIKE SHE'S FORGOT

MY NAME - IT'S ON MY PENCILS  
MY NAME - IT'S ON MY BOOKS  
MY NAME - IS THAT ALL I REALLY AM?  
WHAT ABOUT MY LIKES, MY HISTORY, BACKGROUND OR MY LOOKS?

IT'S JUST ANOTHER ROLL CALL - AT THE START OF THE DAY  
ROLL CALL - DO YOU HEAR WHAT I SAY?  
ROLL CALL - THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY  
FOR YOU TO GET TO KNOW ME  
ROLL CALL - AT THE END OF THE DAY  
ROLL CALL - MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
ROLL CALL - EITHER YAY OR NAY

IS THAT ALL I'LL EVER BE?

MISS TURNER

Tameka and Terri?

TAMEKA AND TERRI

Yes.

MISS TURNER

Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE

Yes Miss Turner!

STUDENTS

I'VE GOT QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS  
I'VE GOT HOPES AND DREAMS AND FEARS  
I'VE GOT STUFF THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND  
THAT ATTACK MY EYES AND EARS  
I'VE GOT QUERIES, I'VE GOT POSERS  
I'VE GOT FACTS I NEED TO CHECK  
BUT IT ALL STARTS WITH A ROLL CALL  
FROM "ANDREWS, JOHN" THROUGH TO "ZIMMEL, BEC"

EVERY SINGLE DAY IT'S JUST THE SAME  
WITH THE TEACHER CALLING OUT MY NAME  
BUT ARE WE MORE THAN THE VOICES SHE CAN HEAR?  
I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW BUT WE'LL COME BACK AND SIT RIGHT HERE

FOR YET ANOTHER ROLL CALL - AT THE START OF THE DAY  
ROLL CALL - DO YOU HEAR WHAT I SAY?  
ROLL CALL - THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY  
FOR YOU TO GET TO KNOW ME  
ROLL CALL - AT THE END OF THE DAY  
ROLL CALL - MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
ROLL CALL - EITHER YAY OR NAY  
IS THAT ALL I WILL EVER BE?

*[Martes enters and throws his bag on the floor.]*

MISS TURNER

Martes, any reason you're late?

MARTES

Nope. Just wanted to sleep in, Miss.

MISS TURNER

You really should be here on time.

MARTES

I would be if I wanted to be. But I don't.

MISS TURNER

Well, at least you're here now.

MARTES

Whatever.

MISS TURNER

Ok, everyone. I hope that you've all prepared for today's assignment. Remember, you have to give a speech about you and your life. Who would like to go ...?

*[Dash and Sarah throw up their hands.]*

SARAH

Me! I will!

MISS TURNER

No calling out Sarah, remember?

SARAH

Yes, Miss Turner. But if no one else wants to go, I'd /ove to go first. Early bird catches the worm!

MISS TURNER

I think Dash also wanted to go first.

DASH

First for what?

MISS TURNER

For the speech, Dash.

DASH

Oh. Sorry, I thought you were going to say something else. Hey, did you know that they're thinking of taking the letter Z out of the alphabet.

MISS TURNER

I don't think that's true, Dash.

DASH

Aaaaaand ... Did you know that if an asteroid hit the Earth, we'd all die?

MISS TURNER

Dash, how about you talk to the whole class - with your speech?

DASH

Oh, sure! Yes. Ok. Yeah, I can do that. Awesome!

*[Dash comes up to the front of the class. Cue Song 3: Slow Down.]*

THERE'S A MILLION THOUGHTS THAT ARE RUNNING 'ROUND MY HEAD  
AND I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS BLUE OR RED  
'CAUSE THE WAY THAT FLY IS BUZZING PAST  
MAKES ME WONDER HOW LONG IT CAN LAST

STUDENTS

AND BREATHE  
JUST BREATHE

DASH

HERE WE GO  
THERE'S A FRUIT THAT TASTES LIKE CHOCOLATE CAKE  
AND AN IRIS SCAN IS HARD TO FAKE  
TOTO THE DOG WAS ONCE A COW  
IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW THEN, THEN YOU SURE KNOW NOW

STUDENTS

AND BREATHE  
AND BREATHE  
AND BREATHE  
JUST BREATHE

DASH

HOW CAN I PAY ATTENTION WHEN THE WORLD WON'T STOP?  
ALL THESE THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD ARE SNAP, CLICK, POP  
IT'S LIKE I'M IN FIGHT AND I'M GONNA DROWN  
IF ONLY THERE'S A WAY FOR ME TO SLOW DOWN...

STUDENTS

SLOW DOWN  
SLOW DOWN  
SLOW DOWN

DASH

PIGS DON'T SWEAT SO THE SAYING IS WRONG  
AM I GONNA FORGET THE WORDS OF MY SONG?  
I WONDER WHAT DADDY HAS PACKED FOR MY SNACK  
AND ONLY HUMAN'S SLEEP ON THEIR BACK

STUDENTS

AND BREATHE  
AND BREATHE  
AND BREATHE  
JUST BREATHE

DASH

HOW CAN I PAY ATTENTION WHEN THE THOUGHTS ALL RACE  
LIKE A GALLOPING HORSE THAT LEADING THE CHASE  
THROUGH A CITY AND A SUBURB AND A COUNTRY TOWN  
IF ONLY THERE'S A WAY FOR ME TO

STUDENTS

SLOW DOWN

DASH

I WOULD TAKE IT

STUDENTS

SLOW DOWN

DASH

I WOULDN'T FAKE IT

STUDENTS

SLOW DOWN

DASH

I COULD MAKE IT  
BUT TO SHAKE THE NEED TO JUST LET GO  
ISN'T SOMETHING THAT I REALLY KNOW

SO A MILLION THOUGHTS GO RUNNING WILD  
AND I KNOW WHAT YOU THINK, I'M A CRAZY CHILD  
BUT IT'S NOT ALL MY FAULT, I GOT LOTS TO SAY  
BUT A MILLION THOUGHTS GET IN THE WAY

DASH  
SO BREATHE  
JUST BREATHE  
I BREATHE  
BUT I NEED TO JUST

STUDENTS  
SLOW DOWN  
SLOW DOWN  
SLOW DOWN

SLOW DOWN!  
STUDENTS

SLOW DOWN  
DASH

DASH  
I love those facts. There's so many things to know! Miss Turner, did you know that ...

MISS TURNER  
Thank you Dash. You can sit down now.

DASH  
Oh, yeah. Sure. Sure, sure. I'll sit down. I'm sitting down!

*[Dash goes back to his seat. Joanna pulls out her sketch book and begins to draw.]*

SARAH  
Miss Turner, can I go next? I've got a great speech. It's the best speech.

MISS TURNER  
You'll get your turn soon.

CHARLOTTE  
How about me, Miss Turner? As an A-Plus student, shouldn't I set the standard?

MISS TURNER  
Well, how about Joanna?

*[Everyone looks to her as she's drawing. She soon realises everyone is looking at her, and glances around.]*

JOANNA

Er ... me?

MISS TURNER

Could you please come up and give your speech? We'd all love to see your new pictures.

JOANNA

Um ... well ... Can I use them in my talk?

MISS TURNER

Of course.

JOANNA

Oh, I guess that's ok then.

*[Joanna walks to the front of the class, holding her drawings.]*

JOANNA

Hi, my name is Joanna ... I guess ...

MARTES

She doesn't know her own name!

MISS TURNER

That's enough Martes. *[To Joanna.]* Please continue Joanna.

*[Cue Song 4: DRAW MY WORLD.]*

JOANNA

THERE IS WONDER IN THE PENCIL LINES  
IN THE STROKES OF A PEN  
IN THE SHADING OF THE COLOURS  
OF THE WORLDS CREATED AND THEN

IN THE PICTURES THAT I DRAW  
IS THE TRUTH THAT I LIVE  
BECAUSE WORDS DON'T SAY AS MUCH  
AS THE DRAWINGS THAT I GIVE

IF I COULD ONLY DRAW MY WORLD  
IF I COULD ONLY PAINT THE SCENE  
IF I COULD ONLY USE THE PASTELS  
FOR RED AND BLUE AND GREEN