Analysis of “Another Brick in the Wall” By Pink Floyd

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A Little Bit About Pink Floyd

• Pink Floyd was formed in 1965 in London, England.
• Pink Floyd was a product of the post-war era.
• Their original lead guitarist went insane.
• Much of their music has to do with control and sanity.
Another Brick in the Wall

- Released in 1979 as a part of Pink Floyd’s Rock Opera
- The video accompanying the song is from Pink Floyd’s 1982 Film “The Wall” Directed by Alan Parker.
- Parker is not a music video director, he is a film director and has directed films such as “Mississippi Burning” and “Evita”
Analysis

• 3 Parts
  – Part 2: Lack of freedom and Individuality
  – Part 3: Rebellion

• 2 Levels of Analysis
  – Analysis of the song on its own.
  – Analysis of the song and the music video.

Sounds – Violent, sharp, and warlike music, accompanied by screaming.

Images – Dark and frightening. Quick cuts, establish a violent tone.
Lyrics – “When we grew up and Went to school, there were certain teachers who would hurt the children in many ways…”

Music cuts out for spoken scene

Poems - “Money get back, I’m all right Jack keep your hands of my stack…”
Part 2: Lack of Freedom and Individuality

Sounds – Driving and consistent rhythm. Very little variation.

Images – In sync with music. Shows children in masks marching.

Lyrics – “We don’t need no education, we don’t Need no thought control..”

There are very few lyrics in the song.
As the lyrics are repeated, the tone seems to shift from lack of hope to anger. The pictures become more dramatic, violent, and out of the ordinary.

Melodic instruments drop out To leave only drums and children singing.
After reaching the visual climax of the piece, the vocals cut out and a guitar solo begins.

The freedom represented by the guitar solo, is accompanied visually, by the children Throwing off their masks and rebelling.
Conclusion

• Lyrics, Sound, and Image are combined to make a dark and angry commentary.

• The song alone represents the rebellious attitude of the youth towards their oppressive and violent teachers.

• The song combined with the video presents a new interpretation of the meaning. The meaning now reaches beyond the poor educations system, and comments instead on the overbearing and dictatorial role of government.