

**"Teenage Wasteland"**

**Ann Taylor**

**Part A) Pre-Reading - Poetic Inspiration**

"Baba O'Riley"

Annotations – Possible Meanings

The Who (Pete Townsend)

Out here in the fields  
I fight for my meals  
I get my back into my living  
I don't need to fight  
To prove I'm right  
I don't need to be forgiven

Don't cry  
Don't raise your eye  
It's only teenage wasteland

Sally ,take my hand  
Travel south cross land  
Put out the fire  
Don't look past my shoulder  
The exodus is here  
The happy ones are near  
Let's get together  
Before we get much older

Teenage wasteland  
It's only teenage wasteland  
Teenage wasteland  
Oh, oh  
Teenage wasteland  
They're all wasted

**Part B) Poetry Questions**

Is the speaker (songwriter) a teenager himself? How do you know?

What is the message of the song?

### Part C) After Reading Discussion Topics

	Your notes after discussion
Why does Cal act the way he does? What are his motivations?	
Do you agree with the steps that Daisy took to help her son? What would you change?	
Who's to blame for Donny's actions? Why do you think this?	
Do your parents understand what it's like to be a teenager right now? How are your experiences different? Similar?	
What does this story 'say' about the generation gap between teenagers and their parents?	

### Part D) Journal Response

Choose one of the following topics and write a personal response. Write at least two paragraphs (one page single spaced) and make personal connections, and inferences.

- A) How do you feel that your parents understand you? Discuss in terms of "Teenage Wasteland" as well.
- B) Do you feel that teenagers today are given too much freedom? Too little? Discuss in relation to the story and your own life's experience.

### Part E) Paragraph Assignment

1. Choose a character to write an illustration about: Donny or Daisy.
2. Come up with a topic sentence for your paragraph (your argument).
3. Fill in the attached Literary Paragraph Planning sheet. Using at least supporting points, with a quotation from the story for each one.
4. On \_\_\_\_\_ in class, we will write out our A.C.E. Paragraphs on laptops.