



---

**Excerpt of Lyrics from Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five,  
“The Message” (1982)**

By Ed "Duke Bootee" Fletcher, Grandmaster Melle Mel, and Sylvia Robinson

**Verse 1**

Broken glass everywhere  
People \*\*\*\*\* on the stairs, you know they just don't care  
I can't take the smell, I can't take the noise  
Got no money to move out, I guess I got no choice

Rats in the front room, roaches in the back  
Junkies in the alley with a baseball bat  
I tried to get away, but I couldn't get far  
Cause the man with the tow-truck repossessed my car

[Chorus]: Don't push me, cause I'm close to the edge  
I'm trying not to lose my head  
It's like a jungle sometimes, it makes me wonder how I keep from going under

**Verse 3**

My brother's doing bad, stole my mother's TV  
Says she watches too much, it's just not healthy  
“All My Children” in the daytime, “Dallas” at night  
Can't even see the game or the Sugar Ray fight

The bill collectors, they ring my phone  
And scare my wife when I'm not home  
Got a bum education, double-digit inflation  
Can't take the train to the job, there's a strike at the station

Neon King Kong standing on my back  
Can't stop to turn around, broke my sacroiliac  
A mid-range migraine, cancered membrane  
Sometimes I think I'm going insane  
I swear I might hijack a plane!

**NOTE:** The verses included above are excerpted from the full song lyrics. Language that may be considered unsuitable for the classroom has been eliminated.