

## Painting By Numbers

James McMurtry

The gates of the schoolyard  
are padlocked and chained  
to keep all the children in out of the rain  
the art teacher's preaching  
the virtues of pastel shades  
you pay no attention but it won't hurt your grades

'cause you're painting by numbers  
connecting the dots  
they don't have to tell you  
you don't call the shots

you jump when they say jump  
and you don't ask how high  
'cause painting by numbers they know you'll get by  
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you take a position  
in the old man's firm  
he signs all the papers  
you agree to the terms  
they ley you run errands  
and you don't get days off  
you take off the garbage and hope it pays off

'cause you're painting by numbers  
connecting the dots  
you work from neck down

you might be in grad school  
up ut M.I.T.  
you might be down in the canal zone  
being all that you can be  
you might get to thinking you're ahead of the game  
but when you break it all down  
it all comes out the same

'cause you're painting by numbers  
connecting the dots  
you work from neck down