**"Pink Houses"**

**by**

**JOHN COUGAR MELLENCAMP**

There's a black man with a black cat

 Livin' in a black neighborhood

 He's got an interstate

 Runnin' through his front yard

 You know he thinks that he's got it so good

 And there's a woman in the kitchen

 Cleanin' up the evenin' slop

 And he looks at her and says, hey darlin'

 I can remember when you could stop a clock

 Oh, but ain't that America

 For you and me

 Ain't that America

 Something to see, baby

 Ain't that America

 Home of the free, yeah

 Little pink houses

 For you and me

 Oooh, yeah

 For you and me

 Well, there's a young man in a t-shirt

 Listenin' to a rockin' rollin' station

 He's got greasy hair, greasy smile

 He says, Lord this must be my destination

 'Cause they told me when I was younger

 Said boy, you're gonna be president

 But just like everything else

 Those old crazy dreams

 Just kinda came and went

 Oh, but ain't that America

 For you and me

 Ain't that America

 Something to see, baby

 Ain't that America

 Home of the free, yeah

 Little pink houses

 For you and me

 Oooh, little baby

 For you and me

[Instrumental Interlude]

 Well, there's people and more people

 What do they know, know, know

 Go to work in some high rise

 And vacation down at the Gulf of Mexico

 Ooh, yeah

 And there's winners and there's losers

 But they ain't no big deal

 'Cause the simple man, baby

 Pays for thrills

 The bills the pills that kill

 Oh, but ain't that America

 For you and me

 Ain't that America

 Something to see, baby

 Ain't that America

 Home of the free, yeah

 Little pink houses

 For you and me

 Oooh

 Ooooh, yeah...

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

* In the margin, describe the concept/conflict of each stanza.
* What do the pink houses symbolize?
* How does this apply to The American Dream today?