In the middle of the city where the wind blows icy cold Standing on the corner in his raggedy summer clothes He's little for his age but he's almost six years old Playing in the street when the traffic gets kinda slow

His momma's been dead and his daddy's still unemployed Can you tell me what lies ahead For this little bitty baby boy Now tell me

Whatcha gonna be Johnny Poverty Will you grow to be a mighty mighty man Up in Washington, D.C.

Where you gonna go I wanna know your destiny Johnny Poverty

Now you gotta stay alive and I know it's hard to do 'Cause I used to be a little boy just like you You wanna run away but you got nowhere to go So you have to stick around where the hookers and the pushers f low

Can't you see what I am, Johnny?
I'm not much of a man, Johnny
You better be the best that you can than be a bum like me
So tell me

Whatcha gonna be Johnny Poverty Will you grow to be a mighty mighty man Up in Washington, D.C.

Where you gonna go I wanna know your destiny Johnny Poverty

Johnny Johnny Johnny Johnny