

What do you want to be ?

What do you want to *be*?

What do *you* want to be?

What do you want to be?

Hey listen kid, you don't have to tell me—

I'm just here to read some poetry.

You can leave now if you want.

You're completely free, you see.

But, before you go, let me tell you

I'm not here to tell you about birds and bees
and trees

and bananas and farmers and poetry things.

This poem is a question,

and I'm asking what you dream and feel and things.

You see, maybe you want to be famous.

Maybe you want to be an astronaut and explore Uranus.

Maybe you want to be the craziest stunt lady Hollywood's ever seen.

Maybe you want to buy some flashy mansion
and spend all your time keeping it clean.

Maybe you're a dancer and Bollywood's more your scene.

Maybe you're a natural,

Maybe you're going to have work hard at it.

Maybe you're a punk singer and you want to smash...it...up.

Maybe you like nice stuff.

Maybe to get it you're going to act all tough.

Maybe you're going to be sweet.

Maybe you're going to meet and greet.

Maybe you just want to help people.

Or maybe you want to be a success, like prove that you're the best.

Maybe you want to make your own zombie movies,
spray ketchup all over your mate's face for fake blood,

Maybe you want to be a dirt biker all covered in mud,
or a rescue woman saving people in a flood.

Maybe you want to be a boxer, landing punches with a thud.

Maybe you want to do very little,
live life quietly up a mountain someplace,
stay up all night staring into space.
Maybe you want to raise a family.
Maybe you want to devote your life to a god.
Maybe you want to live in a caravan on the sea, serving cod and
chips.
Maybe you'll be eternally swell if you can just kiss a sweet pair of lips
Whatever your dream, I'm just here to remind you that you can be
whatever you want to be and you can have *anything*, you see.
Now if you're like me you're going to want it all for free.
But like me and like lots of other people like me,
in the end you're going to see
that if you want to be what you want to be
then you are going to have believe
and work real hard.
Unless you just want to be a nobody, which is real easy.
But don't worry, 'cos this crazy game is not a race,
and it's not up to me or school or TV to tell you your place.
We don't know your dream, or even what you really mean
when you say what you want to be.
It's up to you.
You've got to decide for yourself you see.
Now, tell me - what do you want to be?
Wilf Merttens