

The Living Years

Written by Mike Rutherford and B A Robertson, recorded by Mike and the Mechanics

Intro: [G]

[G] Every generation, [C] blames the one before
And [G] all of their frustrations, come [C] beating on your door
I [F] know that I'm a prisoner to all my father held so dear
I [Am] know that I'm a hostage, to all his hopes and fears
I just [D7] wish I could've told him, in the living [G] years

Oh, [G] crumpled bits of paper, filled [C] with imperfect thoughts

[G] Stilted conversations, I'm a- [C] afraid that's all we've got
You [F] say you just don't see it, he says it's perfect sense
You [Am] just can't get agreement, in this present tense
We all [D7] talk a different language, talking in de- [G] fence

Chorus: Say it [G] loud, say it [C] clear
You can [Am] listen as [D7] well as you [G] hear
It's too late when we [C] die
To ad- [Am] mit we don't [D7] see eye to [G] eye

So we [G] open up a quarrel, between the [C] present and the past
We only [G] sacrifice the future, it's the [C] bitterness that lasts
So [F] don't yield to the fortunes, you sometimes see as fate
It may [Am] have a new perspective, on a different day
And if you [D7] don't give up and don't give in, you may just be o- [G] kay

Chorus

I [G] wasn't there that morning, when my [C] father passed away
I [G] didn't get to tell him, all the [C] things I had to say
I [F] think I caught his spirit, later that same year
I'm [Am] sure I heard his echo in my baby's new born tears
I just [D7] wish I could have told him, in the living [G] years

Chorus

Outro #1: Say it [G] loud, say it [C] clear x4

Another chorus

Outro #2 (rallentando...): To ad-[Am] mit we don't [D7] see eye to [G] eye.

Final outro, *a cappella*: Say it loud