**At Seventeen – Janis Ian November 14, 2014  
Theme Paragraph**

*First Section*: Introduction – Author, Story, Summary

*Second Section:* Thesis – your argument/what you are going to talk about – this sentence answers the prompt.

*Third Section:* Support – explaining and passages (quotes) from the story.  
You should try to have 2 really good passages.

*Fourth Section:* Conclusion.

Prompt: Discuss the theme of the song.

“At Seventeen” by Janis Ian is a song about the struggles of high school at seventeen years old. The theme of the song is that everyone wants to fit in and be accepted. The song begins with the truths Ian learns at seventeen: “That love was meant for beauty queens / And high school girls with clear skinned smiles.” It is evident that Ian did not have a positive high school experience; she lacked “the social graces” that would have made her included and accepted; she “desperately remained at home / inventing lovers on the phone / who called to say ‘come dance with me’” isolating herself and imagining herself as one of the cool, popular kids. Looking back on her own experiences, she reflects and identifies with others who may have felt the same way. Ian reaches out “to those … who knew the pain / of Valentine’s that never came / and those whose names were never called / when choosing sides for basketball” to let them they were and are not alone – that, as misfits, they fit in somewhere. Clearly the theme of the song is that everyone wants to fit in and be accepted.