

LYRICS

You shout it out
 But I can't hear a word you say
 I'm talking loud not saying much
 I'm criticized but all your bullets ricochet
 You shoot me down, but I get up

I'm bulletproof nothing to lose
Fire away, fire away
Ricochet, you take your aim
Fire away, fire away
You shoot me down but I won't fall, I am titanium
You shoot me down but I won't fall
I am titanium, I am titanium, I am titanium, I am titanium

Cut me down
 But it's you who has further to fall
 Ghost town, haunted love
 Raise your voice, sticks and stones may break my bones
 I'm talking loud not saying much

I'm bulletproof nothing to lose
Fire away, fire away
Ricochet, you take your aim
Fire away, fire away
You shoot me down but I won't fall
I am titanium
You shoot me down but I won't fall
I am...

COMMENTARY

The song lyrics suggest personal themes of courage resilience- strength (inner/emotional) standing up in the face of adversity being tough; taking knocks
 You can say all you want, but you won't hurt me
 Bouncing back

Titanium – a material, known for its toughness

MUSIC VIDEO

The music video's narrative genre is sci-fi thriller.

It adds an extra dimension to the themes of resilience and courage suggested by the lyrics. REPOSITIONS the product from something personal to a something more universal with a wider appeal.

The video takes the song beyond an anthem of resistance and turns it into a narrative about a boy with superpowers

**It could be about the transition from childhood to adolescence. The visuals and the narrative extend the song's appeal to a wider, younger audience
 The video tells a gripping story and also seems to raise issues of children facing the adult world, the uncertainty of growing up and leaving childhood behind.**

Notes and points to think about

Imdb has some nice stills and 'behind the scenes' shots

Low budget feel – small cast. Simple VFX

Director: David Wilson (famous for Arcade Fire We Exist, a celebration of empowerment, gay and transgender issues)

Video genre- It's a narrative (not a performance or style /concept video). Ambiguity & mystery=**enigma**. Raises questions and does not resolve or answer them; is the boy responsible for the scene of devastation? Has he mysteriously survived a traumatic event? where is the rest of his family? Other students? Why the two joggers? Does he survive or die at the end?

Camerawork –Find examples of long shots, wide shots, close ups, ECUs, pan and tracking shots. Why are they used?

Editing: straight cuts– why? Look for examples of **ellipsis** (bits of action that are missed out). Can you find examples of: slo mo jump cuts and matched cutting

SFX – explosions and supernatural events e.g. telekinesis

Mise en scene – comment on colour, mood, clothes, props, locations (in what ways does it go beyond pure verisimilitude?)

Representation

the boy, the adult world, suburbia, authority figures

normality vs abnormality; rural vs urban childhood vs adulthood binary opposites

Sci fi iconography; children's action movie iconography and intertextuality

Important visual signifiers: teddy bear?

Narrative

Todorov: is there a clear 3 part structure?

Find examples of Binary opposites: Heroes v villains? Child v Adult

What aspects of the narrative come full circle?

Character types (Propp). Intertextual refs to high school massacres -

Genre and generic conventions – enigma codes, sci fi/supernatural aspects

The sci fi / action movie conventions.

Ideology, themes and message:

the video gives the song extra interest and appeal

Childhood fears and anxieties – unfeeling incomprehension of the adult world;

alienation and confusion. **Family break up?** His room seems half abandoned.

Leaving childhood behind. Isolation. The young boy doesn't seem very at ease with his powers.

Judgement and self-consciousness of younger generation in a hostile adult world.

Links to more recent films such as Stranger Things. But also echoes earlier classics like Close Encounters, Donnie Darko etc

Political, cultural socio-economic context

Insecurity in a post 9/11 world. Vulnerability of children – neglect, **alienation**.

The political / economic aspect is not as clear as in 'Stop where you are'.

Narrative and significant cinematographic codes – add to this list and comment

<p>1) Opens in a school – a young boy is crouching amid a scene of devastation (following a supernatural occurrence but the scene has associations of a high school massacre).</p> <p>2) The boy gets up and walks away from scene of chaos</p> <p>3) A woman, probably a teacher is in a room, speaking on the phone. . Seems not to want contact with him – closes door as he passes. enigma narrative (enigma = mystery, puzzle)</p> <p>4 The boy ignores her; leaves the building which is deserted passes a police car (looks a bit staged, typical of a low budget film).</p> <p>5 The boy cycles off as woman talks to the cop and points towards the boy who is riding off fast.</p> <p>6 suburban street. 2 joggers</p> <p>7 Boy arrives home – all seems normal TV in living room; shows headline about 'supernatural occurrence' (occurrence) at local school</p> <p>8 Protagonist hastily packs bag, throwing away childish toys such as a teddy bear.</p> <p>9 Police appear to be outside front door as he prepares to make his escape</p> <p>10 The boy heads for back door which is locked. As the police enter the house through front door, guns drawn, the boy uses telekinesis to move the keys from the kitchen table into his hands.</p> <p>11 Police enter bedroom to see 2 teddy bears spinning in the air near the ceiling Eerie purple glow floods the kitchen as the police enter</p> <p>12 we assume the boy has escaped through the the back door. we don't actually see this</p> <p>13 Next scene shows the boy emerging from woods onto a road sunset glow</p> <p>14 he's by a lake, then in the woods.</p> <p>15He walks between large stone slabs which could be gravestones.</p> <p>16Sunset gives way to darkness. Torchlights nearby shows the presence of the police pursuing him. We see them as the pace picks up again and he starts running.</p> <p>17 There are more people hunting him now–</p>	<p>cross-cut shots of and from the bike as song picks up pace with the chorus</p> <p>slo-mo as he cycles through the streets low angle shots follow bike, lateral (sideon) view</p> <p><i>Notice a couple of continuity and shooting errors:</i> <i>1) spelling typo ('occurrence' instead of 'occurrence')</i> <i>2) also his hat is blue in a shot at the very start</i></p> <p>packing bag is shown in interesting low angle rear shot</p> <p>low angle shots of door and police</p> <p>interesting use of ellipsis in editing = bits missed out e.g. we don't actually see the boy opening the back door and leaving</p> <p>Slo-mo again as he's walking through woods, matches rhythm of song</p>
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vehicles (large headlights) and soldiers. Mist adds to atmosphere.

18 Boy runs into the path of a soldier who pushes him to the ground, illuminated by lights of an army vehicle.

19 Surrounded, with the SWAT team yelling at him, he crouches down in the same position as we see him at the start.

20 He covers his head – then there's a eerie glow round his body and an explosion that sends the soldiers flying into the air.

Here is a good shot by shot analysis

<https://www.slideshare.net/lucycollings1/david-guetta-feat-siatitanium-video-analysis>