

Rock and Roll Poetry Class poems:

Week One

Black Oak Arkansas lyrics

Lord have Mercy on my Soul

Now there's somethin' I'd like to talk to you about
at this particular moment, and that's about the one
thing that we won't be able to do together. Unless we
all become as one. And if we all become as one, then
we can walk thru it together. Now I ain't walked thru
it all the way yet. But there was a time I walked
into it, and I had to go into it alone, that's this
place called the Halls of Karma. Now when you go into
the Halls of Karma the way I did, I don't know, it
might have been hallucination, but I think it was
real. You see I felt the presence of the two energies;
the positive and the negative; or God and the Devil,
however you want it. And they were pullin' and
decidin' and wondering what to do with my soul, and I
couldn't take this at this moment 'cause I had to come
back to be with you people to do a thing and I proved
to 'em, in bargainin' with 'em that I had a thing to
do for the good of all of us. Out of this bargain,
the devil, he got my body for the good in his needs
while I'm here on earth and the Lord, he's got my mind
for the good of the universe and for the good of man.
And they both got me in between 'cause they both got
my soul. So the next time I come up, I want the Lord
to, Please have Mercy, On My Soul

I've walked through the Halls of Karma
I shook hands with both the Devil and God
They turned my eyes to the inside to see
Where my energies have gone
Yes I've run with both all through my life
I've respected and reflected them both
Yes the sympathy of God as he looked
At my life the excitement of the Devil as we talked

So Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy on my soul

The Devil said, "scratch my back and I'll
Scratch your back for sure"
So you have done all these sins for him
My heart could not be pure
I found out what means more to me

Than anything on this earth
To be ready for my judgement day
Ready to face the truth

So Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy on my soul

I hope I've done the right things
For both your sake and mine
I preach in what I live for
My only fear is fear of time
I wanted to look logical
to both my "Maker" and his host
But this trip of life must be complete
or my cards will be lost.

So Lord Please Have Mercy on My Soul

- Writer(s): William Harvey Jett, Norman Stone

Keep the Faith

When troubles got you down
and sorrow's all around
if you think your loves all been in vain
just cry to end the pain.

Please keep the faith, we need it.

You look for a way out
of this sea of doubt.
It looks hard I understand
swimmin when you can't see land.

Please keep the faith, we need it.

You need to see the country
but something holds you back.
Travel near, far and wide.
Have no fear or nothing to hide.

Please keep the faith, we need it.

If you're tired of the human race,
and you can't find yourself in pace,
there's too many games goin round
and the Man's tryin to bring you down.

Please keep the faith, we need it.

- Writer(s): Butch Stone

Harry Nilsson Lyrics

"Think About Your Troubles"

Sit beside the breakfast table
Think about your troubles
Pour yourself a cup of tea
And think about the bubbles
You could take your teardrops
And drop them in a teacup
Take them down to the riverside
And throw them over the side
To be swept up by a current
Then taken to the ocean
To be eaten by some fishes
Who were eaten by some fishes
And swallowed by a whale
Who grew so old, he decomposed
He died and left his body
To the bottom of the ocean
Now everybody knows
That when a body decomposes
The basic elements
Are given back to the ocean
And the sea does what it ought'a
And soon there's salty water
(Not too good for drinking)
'Cause it tastes just like a teardrop
(So we run it through a filter)
And it comes out from the faucet
(And pours into a teapot)
Which is just about to bubble
Now
Think about your troubles

Bruce Springsteen Lyrics

"Dancing In The Dark"

I get up in the evening
and I ain't got nothing to say
I come home in the morning
I go to bed feeling the same way
I ain't nothing but tired
Man I'm just tired and bored with myself
Hey there baby, I could use just a little help

You can't start a fire
You can't start a fire without a spark
This gun's for hire
even if we're just dancing in the dark

Message keeps getting clearer
radio's on and I'm moving 'round the place
I check my look in the mirror
I wanna change my clothes, my hair, my face
Man I ain't getting nowhere
I'm just living in a dump like this
There's something happening somewhere
baby I just know that there is

You can't start a fire
you can't start a fire without a spark
This gun's for hire
even if we're just dancing in the dark

You sit around getting older
there's a joke here somewhere and it's on me
I'll shake this world off my shoulders
come on baby this laugh's on me

Stay on the streets of this town
and they'll be carving you up alright
They say you gotta stay hungry
hey baby I'm just about starving tonight
I'm dying for some action
I'm sick of sitting 'round here trying to write this book
I need a love reaction
come on now baby gimme just one look

You can't start a fire sitting 'round crying over a broken heart
This gun's for hire
Even if we're just dancing in the dark

You can't start a fire worrying about your little world falling apart
This gun's for hire
Even if we're just dancing in the dark
Hey baby
ssssssssss

Bruce Springsteen Lyrics

"Born In The U.S.A."

Born down in a dead man's town
The first kick I took was when I hit the ground
You end up like a dog that's been beat too much
Till you spend half your life just covering up

Born in the U.S.A.
I was born in the U.S.A.
I was born in the U.S.A.
Born in the U.S.A.

Got in a little hometown jam
So they put a rifle in my hand
Sent me off to a foreign land
To go and kill the yellow man

Born in the U.S.A.
I was born in the U.S.A.
I was born in the U.S.A.
I was born in the U.S.A.
Born in the U.S.A.

Come back home to the refinery
Hiring man says "Son if it was up to me"
Went down to see my V.A. man
He said "Son, don't you understand"

I had a brother at Khe Sanh fighting off the Viet Cong
They're still there, he's all gone

He had a woman he loved in Saigon
I got a picture of him in her arms now

Down in the shadow of the penitentiary
Out by the gas fires of the refinery
I'm ten years burning down the road

Nowhere to run ain't got nowhere to go

Born in the U.S.A.

I was born in the U.S.A.

Born in the U.S.A.

I'm a long gone Daddy in the U.S.A.

Born in the U.S.A.

Born in the U.S.A.

Born in the U.S.A.

I'm a cool rocking Daddy in the U.S.A.

"The Fish Cheer / I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-To-Die"

Country Joe And The Fish Lyrics

Gimme an F! F!

Gimme an I! I!

Gimme an S! S!

Gimme an H! H!

What's that spell? FISH!

What's that spell? FISH!

What's that spell? FISH!

Yeah, come on all of you, big strong men, Uncle Sam needs your help again

He's got himself in a terrible jam, way down yonder in Vietnam

So put down your books and pick up a gun, we're gonna have a whole lotta fun.

And it's one, two, three, what are we fighting for?

Don't ask me, I don't give a damn, next stop is Vietnam

And it's five, six, seven, open up the pearly gates

Well there ain't no time to wonder why

Whoopie! we're all gonna die.

Well, come on generals, let's move fast, your big chance has come at last

Gotta go out and get those reds, the only good commie is one that's dead

And you know that peace can only be won when we've blown 'em all to kingdom come.

And it's one, two, three, what are we fighting for?

Don't ask me, I don't give a damn, next stop is Vietnam

And it's five, six, seven, open up the pearly gates

Well there ain't no time to wonder why

Whoopie! we're all gonna die.

Well, come on Wall Street, don't move slow, why man, this is war a-go-go

There's plenty good money to be made by supplying the Army with the tools of the trade

Just hope and pray that if they drop the bomb, they drop it on the Viet Cong.

And it's one, two, three, what are we fighting for?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn, next stop is Vietnam
And it's five, six, seven, open up the pearly gates
Well there ain't no time to wonder why
Whoopee! we're all gonna die.

Well, come on mothers throughout the land, pack your boys off to Vietnam
Come on fathers, don't hesitate, send 'em off before it's too late
Be the first one on your block to have your boy come home in a box.

And it's one, two, three, what are we fighting for?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn, next stop is Vietnam
And it's five, six, seven, open up the pearly gates
Well there ain't no time to wonder why
Whoopee! we're all gonna die.

Week Two:

Creedence Clearwater Revival Lyrics

"Who'll Stop The Rain"

Long as I remember The rain been comin' down.
Clouds of myst'ry pourin' Confusion on the ground.
Good men through the ages, Tryin' to find the sun;
And I wonder, Still I wonder, Who'll stop the rain.

I went down Virginia, Seekin' shelter from the storm.
Caught up in the fable, I watched the tower grow.
Five year plans and new deals, Wrapped in golden chains.
And I wonder, Still I wonder Who'll stop the rain.

Heard the singers playin', How we cheered for more.
The crowd had rushed together, Tryin' to keep warm.
Still the rain kept pourin', Fallin' on my ears.
And I wonder, Still I wonder Who'll stop the rain.

Writer(s): John C. Fogerty

"Have You Ever Seen The Rain"

Someone told me long ago There's a calm before the storm,
I know; It's been comin' for some time.
When it's over, so they say, It'll rain a sunny day,
I know; Shinin' down like water.

[CHORUS:]

I want to know, Have you ever seen the rain?
I want to know, Have you ever seen the rain
Comin' down on a sunny day?

Yesterday, and days before, Sun is cold and rain is hard,
I know; Been that way for all my time.
'Til forever, on it goes Through the circle, fast and slow,
I know; It can't stop, I wonder.

[CHORUS]

Yeah!

[CHORUS]

Writer(s): John C. Fogerty

Creedence Clearwater Revival Lyrics

"Run Through The Jungle"

Whoa, thought it was a nightmare,
Lo, it's all so true,
They told me, "Don't go walkin' slow
'Cause Devil's on the loose."

[CHORUS:]

Better run through the jungle,
Better run through the jungle,
Better run through the jungle,
Woa, Don't look back to see.

Thought I heard a rumblin'
Callin' to my name,
Two hundred million guns are loaded
Satan cries, "Take aim!"

[CHORUS]

Over on the mountain
Thunder magic spoke,
"Let the people know my wisdom,
Fill the land with smoke."

[CHORUS]

Writer(s): John Cameron Fogerty

Billy Joel Lyrics

"Piano Man"

It's nine o'clock on a Saturday
The regular crowd shuffles in
There's an old man sitting next to me
Making love to his tonic and gin

He says, "Son can you play me a memory
I'm not really sure how it goes
But it's sad and it's sweet
And I knew it complete
When I wore a younger man's clothes."

Sing us a song you're the piano man
Sing us a song tonight
Well we're all in the mood for a melody
And you've got us feeling alright

Now John at the bar is a friend of mine
He gets me my drinks for free
And he's quick with a joke or to light up your smoke
But there's someplace that he'd rather be

He says, "Bill, I believe this is killing me."
As a smile ran away from his face
"Well, I'm sure that I could be a movie star
If I could get out of this place."

Now Paul is a real estate novelist
Who never had time for a wife
And he's talking with Davy, who's still in the Navy
And probably will be for life

And the waitress is practicing politics
As the businessmen slowly get stoned
Yes they're sharing a drink they call "Loneliness"
But it's better than drinking alone

Sing us a song you're the piano man
Sing us a song tonight
Well we're all in the mood for a melody
And you've got us feeling alright

It's a pretty good crowd for a Saturday

And the manager gives me a smile
'Cause he knows that it's me they've been coming to see
To forget about life for a while

And the piano it sounds like a carnival
And the microphone smells like a beer
And they sit at the bar and put bread in my jar
And say, "Man, what are you doing here?"

Sing us a song you're the piano man
Sing us a song tonight
Well we're all in the mood for a melody
And you've got us feeling alright

Writer(s): Billy Joel

Tapestry

Carole King

My life has been a tapestry of rich and royal hue
An everlasting vision of the ever-changing view A
wondrous woven magic in bits of blue and gold A
tapestry to feel and see, impossible to hold

Once amid the soft silver sadness in the sky There
came a man of fortune, a drifter passing by
He wore a torn and tattered cloth around his leathered hide
And a coat of many colors, yellow-green on either side

He moved with some uncertainty, as if he didn't know
Just what he was there for, or where he ought to go
Once he reached for something golden hanging from a tree
And his hand came down empty

Soon within my tapestry along the rutted road
He sat down on a river rock and turned into a toad
It seemed that he had fallen into someone's wicked spell And
I wept to see him suffer, though I didn't know him well

As I watched in sorrow, there suddenly appeared A
figure gray and ghostly beneath a flowing beard
In times of deepest darkness, I've seen him dressed in black
Now my tapestry's unraveling--he's come to take me back
He's come to take me back

Way over Yonder

Carol King

Way over yonder is a place that I know
Where I can find shelter from hunger and cold
And the sweet tasting good life is so easily found
Way over yonder, that's where I'm bound

I know when I get there, the first thing I'll see
Is the sun shining golden, shining right down on me
Then trouble's gonna lose me, worry leave me behind
And I'll stand up proudly in true peace of mind talking
'bout, talking 'bout

Way over yonder is a place I have seen
It's a garden of wisdom from some long ago dream

Maybe tomorrow I'll find my way
To the land where the honey runs in rivers each day
And the sweet tasting good life is so easily found
Way over yonder, that's where I'm bound
Way over yonder, that's where I'm bound

Week Three:

Moody Blues Lyrics

"In The Beginning"

[First Man:] I think, I think I am, therefore I am, I think.

[Establishment:] Of course you are my bright little star,
I've miles
And miles
Of files
Pretty files of your forefather's fruit
and now to suit our
great computer,
You're magnetic ink.

[First Man:] I'm more than that, I know I am, at least, I think I must be.

[Inner Man:] There you go man, keep as cool as you can.
Face piles
Of trials
With smiles.
It riles them to believe
that you perceive
the web they weave
And keep on thinking free.

Writer(s): Graeme Edge

Moody Blues Lyrics

"The Dream"

When the white eagle of the North is flying overhead
The browns, reds and golds of autumn lie in the gutter, dead.
Remember then, that summer birds with wings of fire flaying
Came to witness springs new hope, born of leaves decaying.
Just as new life will come from death, love will come at leisure.
Love of love, love of life and giving without measure
Gives in return a wonderous yearn of a promise almost seen.
Live hand-in-hand and together we'll stand on the threshold of a dream.

Writer(s): Graeme Edge

Moody Blues Lyrics

"The Word"

This garden universe vibrates complete.
Some we get a sound so sweet.
Vibrations reach on up to become light,
And then thru gamma, out of sight.
Between the eyes and ears there lie,
The sounds of colour and the light of a sigh.
And to hear the sun, what a thing to believe.
But it's all around if we could but perceive.
To know ultra-violet, infra-red and X-rays,
Beauty to find in so many ways.
Two notes of the chord, that's our fluoroscope.
But to reach the chord is our life's hope.
And to name the chord is important to some.
So they give a word, and the word is OM.

Writer(s): Graeme Edge

Pink Floyd Lyrics

"Money"

Money, get away
Get a good job with more pay and you're O.K.
Money, it's a gas
Grab that cash with both hands and make a stash
New car, caviar, four star daydream,
Think I'll buy me a football team

Money, get back
I'm all right, Jack, keep your hands off of my stack.
Money, it's a hit
Don't give me that do goody good bullshit
I'm in the high-fidelity first-class traveling set
And I think I need a Learjet

Money, it's a crime
Share it fairly but don't take a slice of my pie
Money, so they say
Is the root of all evil today
But if you ask for a rise it's no surprise that they're giving none away

"Ha-ha! I was in the right!"
"Yes, absolutely in the right!"
"I certainly was in the right!"
"Yeah, I was definitely in the right. That geezer was cruising for a bruising!"
"Why does anyone do anything?"
"Yeah!"
"Why does anyone do anything?"
"I don't know, I was really drunk at the time!"
"I was just telling him it was in, he could get it in Number Two. He was asking why it wasn't coming up on freight eleven. After, I was yelling and screaming and telling him why it wasn't coming up on freight eleven. It came to a heavy blow, which sorted the matter out."

Pink Floyd Lyrics

"Us And Them"

Us and them
And after all we're only ordinary men

Me and you
God only knows it's not what we would choose to do

"Forward!" he cried
From the rear
And the front rank died
And the general sat
And the lines on the map
Moved from side to side

Black and blue
And who knows which is which and who is who?

Up and down
And in the end it's only round and round and round

"Haven't you heard
It's a battle of words?"
The poster bearer cried.
"Listen, son,"
Said the man with the gun,
"There's room for you inside."

"Well, I mean, they're gonna kill ya, so like, if you give 'em a quick sh...short, sharp shock, they

don't do it again.

Dig it? I mean he got off light, 'cause I could've given him a thrashin' but I only hit him once.
It's only the difference between right and wrong, innit? I mean good manners don't cost nothing,
do they? Eh?"

Down and out
It can't be helped but there's a lot of it about

With, without
And who'll deny it's what the fighting's all about?

Out of the way
It's a busy day
I've got things on my mind
For want of the price
Of tea and a slice
The old man died

"Brain Damage" Pink Floyd (**"The Dark Side Of The Moon"** Version)

The lunatic is on the grass
The lunatic is on the grass
Remembering games and daisy chains and laughs
Got to keep the loonies on the path

The lunatic is in the hall
The lunatics are in my hall
The paper holds their folded faces to the floor
And every day the paper boy brings more

And if the dam breaks open many years too soon
And if there is no room upon the hill
And if your head explodes with dark forebodings too
I'll see you on the dark side of the moon

The lunatic is in my head
The lunatic is in my head
You raise the blade, you make the change
You re-arrange me 'til I'm sane

You lock the door and throw away the key
There's someone in my head but it's not me.

And if the cloud bursts thunder in your ear

You shout and no one seems to hear
And if the band you're in starts playing different tunes
I'll see you on the dark side of the moon

I can't think of anything to say except...
I think it's marvelous! Ha, ha, ha!

"Eclipse" Pink Floyd

All that you touch
And all that you see
All that you taste
All you feel

And all that you love
And all that you hate
All you distrust
All you save

And all that you give
And all that you deal
And all that you buy,
Beg, borrow or steal

And all you create
And all you destroy
And all that you do
And all that you say

And all that you eat
And everyone you meet
And all that you slight
And everyone you fight

And all that is now
And all that is gone
And all that's to come
And everything under the sun is in tune
But the sun is eclipsed by the moon.

There is no dark side of the moon, really.
Matter of fact, it's all dark.

Week Four

Beach Boys Lyrics

"Rock And Roll Music"

Just let me hear some of that rock and roll music
Any old way you choose it
It's got a backbeat you can't lose it
Any old time you use it
It's gotta be rock and roll music
If you wanna dance with me
If you wanna dance with me

I have no kicks against modern jazz
Unless they try to play it too darned fast
And change the beauty of the melody
Until it sounds just like a symphony

That's why I go for that rock and roll music
Any old way you choose it
It's got a backbeat you can't lose it
Any old time you use it
It's gotta be rock and roll music
If you wanna dance with me
If you wanna dance with me

I took my loved one over 'cross the tracks
So she could hear my man a-wailin' sax
I must admit they have a rockin' band
Man they was blowing like a hurricane

That's why I go for that rock and roll music
Any old way you choose it
It's got a backbeat you can't lose it
Any old time you use it
It's gotta be rock and roll music
If you wanna dance with me
If you wanna dance with me

Way down south they gave a jubilee
I tell you folks they had a jamboree
And drinking beer from a wooden cup
The folks a-dancin' got all shook up

They started playing that rock and roll music

Any old way you choose it
It's got a backbeat you can't lose it
Any old way you use it
It's gotta be rock and roll music
If you wanna dance with me
If you wanna dance with me

Say if you wanna dance with me
If you wanna dance with me
If you wanna dance with me
It's gotta be some of that
If you wanna dance with me

Billy Joel Lyrics

"It's Still Rock And Roll To Me"

What's the matter with the clothes I'm wearing?
"Can't you tell that your tie's too wide?"
Maybe I should buy some old tab collars?
"Welcome back to the age of jive.
Where have you been hidin' out lately, honey?
You can't dress trashy till you spend a lot of money."
Everybody's talkin' 'bout the new sound
Funny, but it's still rock and roll to me

What's the matter with the car I'm driving?
"Can't you tell that it's out of style?"
Should I get a set of white wall tires?
"Are you gonna cruise the miracle mile?
Nowadays you can't be too sentimental
Your best bet's a true baby blue Continental."
Hot funk, cool punk, even if it's old junk
It's still rock and roll to me

Oh, it doesn't matter what they say in the papers
'Cause it's always been the same old scene.
There's a new band in town
But you can't get the sound from a story in a magazine...
Aimed at your average teen

How about a pair of pink sidewinders
And a bright orange pair of pants?
"You could really be a Beau Brummel baby
If you just give it half a chance.

Don't waste your money on a new set of speakers,
You get more mileage from a cheap pair of sneakers."
Next phase, new wave, dance craze, anyways
It's still rock and roll to me

What's the matter with the crowd I'm seeing?
"Don't you know that they're out of touch?"
Should I try to be a straight 'A' student?
"If you are then you think too much.
Don't you know about the new fashion honey?
All you need are looks and a whole lotta money."
It's the next phase, new wave, dance craze, anyways
It's still rock and roll to me

Everybody's talkin' 'bout the new sound
Funny, but it's still rock and roll to me

Bob Seger Lyrics

"Old Time Rock And Roll"

Just take those old records off the shelf
I'll sit and listen to 'em by myself
Today's music ain't got the same soul
I like that old-time rock 'n' roll

Don't try to take me to a disco
You'll never even get me out on the floor
In ten minutes I'll be late for the door
I like that old-time rock 'n' roll

Still like that old-time rock 'n' roll
That kind of music just soothes my soul
I reminisce about the days of old
With that old-time rock 'n' roll

Won't go to hear 'em play a tango
I'd rather hear some blues or funky old soul
There's only one sure way to get me to go
Start playing old-time rock 'n' roll

Call me a relic, call me what you will
Say I'm old-fashioned, say I'm over the hill
Today's music ain't got the same soul
I like that old-time rock 'n' roll

Still like that old-time rock 'n' roll
That kind of music just soothes the soul
I reminisce about the days of old
With that old-time rock 'n' roll

Still like that old-time rock 'n' roll
That kind of music just soothes my soul
I reminisce about the days of old
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That kind of music just soothes my soul
I reminisce about the days of old
With that old-time rock 'n' roll

Still like that old-time rock 'n' roll

Writer(s): George Henry Jackson, Thomas Earl Jones Iii

Kenny Loggins Lyrics

"Your Mama Don't Dance"

Your mama don't dance
And your daddy don't rock and roll
Your mama don't dance
And your daddy don't rock and roll
When evening comes around
And it's time to go to town
Where do you go
To rock and roll

Well, the old folks say
That ya gotta end your date by ten
If you're out on a date
And you bring it home late it's a sin
You know there's no excusin'
You know you're gonna lose and never win

I'll play it again

And it's all because
Your mama don't dance
And your daddy don't rock and roll
Your mama don't dance
And your daddy don't rock and roll
When evening comes around
And it's time to go to town
Where do you go
To rock and roll

You pull into a drive-in
And find a place to park
You hop into the backseat
Where you know it's nice and dark
You're just about to move in,
Thinkin' it's a breeze
There's a light in your eyes
And then a guy says
"Out of the car, Longhair"
"Louise, you're comin' with me
And no more movies"

And it's all because
Your mama don't dance
And your daddy don't rock and roll
Your mama don't dance
And your daddy don't rock and roll
When evening comes around
And it's time to go to town
Where do you go
To rock and roll
Where do you go
To rock and roll
Where do you go
To rock and roll

Writer(s): Kenneth Clark Loggins, Jim Messina