

History as Interpretation

Only in America

Jay and the Americans
[1963]

Only in America
Can a guy from anywhere
Go to sleep a pauper
And wake up a millionaire

Only in America
Can a kid without a cent
Get a break and maybe
Grow up to be President

Only in America
Land of Opportunity
Would a classy girl like you
Fall for a poor boy like me

Only in America
Can a kid who's washin' cars
Take a giant step and
Reach right up and touch the stars

Only in America
Could a dream like this come true
Could a guy like me
Start with nothing and
End up with you

Only in America
Land of Opportunity
Would a classy girl like you
Fall for a poor boy like me

Only in America
Only in America
Only in America



Lake Ridge Academy – US History – Mr. Isherwood
“The Message” by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five

It's like a jungle sometimes
It makes me wonder how I keep from goin' under
It's like a jungle sometimes
It makes me wonder how I keep from goin' under

Broken glass everywhere
People pissin' on the stairs, you know they just don't care
I can't take the smell, can't take the noise
Got no money to move out, I guess I got no choice
Rats in the front room, roaches in the back
Junkies in the alley with a baseball bat
I tried to get away but I couldn't get far
'cuz a man with a tow truck repossessed my car

Don't push me 'cuz I'm close to the edge
I'm trying not to lose my head
Uh huh ha ha ha
It's like a jungle sometimes
It makes me wonder how I keep from goin' under

Standin' on the front stoop hangin' out the window
Watchin' all the cars go by, roarin' as the breezes blow
Crazy lady, livin' in a bag
Eatin' outta garbage pails, used to be a fag had sex and
danced the tango, skip the life and dango
A Zircon princess seemed to lost her senses
Down at the peep show watchin' all the creeps
So she can tell her stories to the girls back home
She went to the city and got so so sadity
She had to get a pimp, she couldn't make it on her own

[Chorus]

My brother's doin' bad, stole my mother's TV
Says she watches too much, it's just not healthy
"All My Children" in the daytime, "Dallas" at night
Can't even see the game or the Sugar Ray fight
The bill collectors, they ring my phone
and scare my wife when I'm not home
Got a bum education, double-digit inflation
Can't take the train to the job, there's a strike at the station
Neon King Kong standin' on my back
Can't stop to turn around, broke my sacroiliac
A mid-range migraine, cancered membrane
Sometimes I think I'm goin' insane
I swear I might hijack a plane!

[Chorus]

My son said, Daddy, I don't wanna go to school
'cuz the teacher's a jerk, he must think I'm a fool
And all the kids smoke reefer, I think it'd be cheaper
if I just got a job, learned to be a street sweeper
Or dance to the beat, shuffle my feet
Wear a shirt and tie and run with the creeps
'cuz it's all about money, ain't a damn thing funny
You got to have a con in this land of milk and honey
They pushed that girl in front of the train
Took her to the doctor, sewed her arm on again
Stabbed that man right in his heart
Gave him a transplant for a brand new start
I can't walk through the park 'cuz it's crazy after dark
Keep my hand on my gun 'cuz they got me on the run
I feel like a outlaw, broke my last glass jaw



Lake Ridge Academy – US History – Mr. Isherwood

Hear them say "You want some more?"
Livin' on a see-saw

Don't push me 'cuz I'm close to the edge
I'm trying not to lose my head
Say what?

It's like a jungle sometimes
It makes me wonder how I keep from goin' under
It's like a jungle sometimes
It makes me wonder how I keep from goin' under

It's like a jungle sometimes
It makes me wonder how I keep from goin' under

It's like a jungle sometimes
It makes me wonder how I keep from goin' under

A child is born with no state of mind
Blind to the ways of mankind
God is smilin' on you but he's frownin' too
Because only God knows what you'll go through
You'll grow in the ghetto livin' second-rate
And your eyes will sing a song of deep hate
The places you play and where you stay
Looks like one great big alleyway
You'll admire all the number-book takers
Thugs, pimps and pushers and the big money-makers
Drivin' big cars, spendin' twenties and tens
And you'll wanna grow up to be just like them, huh
Smugglers, scramblers, burglars, gamblers
Pickpockets, peddlers, even panhandlers
You say I'm cool, huh, I'm no fool
But then you wind up droppin' outta high school
Now you're unemployed, all non void
Walkin' round like you're Pretty Boy Floyd
Turned stick-up kid, but look what you done did
Got sent up for a eight-year bid
Now your manhood is took and you're a Maytag
Spend the next two years as a undercover fag
Bein' used and abused to serve like hell
'til one day, you was found hung dead in the cell
It was plain to see that your life was lost
You was cold and your body swung back and forth
But now your eyes sing the sad, sad song
Of how you lived so fast and died so young so...

Don't push me 'cuz I'm close to the edge
I'm trying not to lose my head
Uh huh huh huh huh

It's like a jungle sometimes
It makes me wonder how I keep from goin' under
Huh, uh huh huh huh huh
It's like a jungle sometimes
It makes me wonder how I keep from goin' under
Huh, uh huh huh huh huh



"We Didn't Start the Fire"

by Billy Joel

- [1949] Harry Truman, Doris Day, Red China, Johnnie Ray
South Pacific, Walter Winchell, Joe Dimaggio
- [1950] Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon, Studebaker, Television
North Korea, South Korea, Marilyn Monroe
- [1951] Rosenbergs, H-Bomb, Sugar Ray, Panmunjon
Brando, The King and I and The Catcher in the Rye
- [1952] Eisenhower, Vaccine, England's Got a New Queen
Marciano, Liberace, Santayana, Goodbye

We Didn't Start the Fire
It Was Always Burning
Since the World's Been Turning
We Didn't Start the Fire
No We Didn't Light It
But We Tried to Fight It

- [1953] Joseph Stalin, Malenkov, Nasser and Prokofiev
Rockefeller, Campanella, Communist Block
- [1954] Roy Cohn, Juan Peron, Toscanini, Dacron
Dien Bien Phu Falls, Rock Around the Clock
- [1955] Einstein, James Dean, Brooklyn's Got a Winning Team
Davy Crockett, Peter Pan, Elvis Presley, Disneyland
- [1956] Bardot, Budapest, Alabama, Khrushchev
Princess Grace, Peyton Place, Trouble in the Suez

We Didn't Start the Fire
It Was Always Burning
Since the World's Been Turning
We Didn't Start the Fire
No We Didn't Light It
But We Tried to Fight It

- [1957] Little Rock, Pasternak, Mickey Mantle, Kerouac
Sputnik, Chou En-Lai, Bridge on the River Kwai
- [1958] Lebanon, Charles DeGaulle, California Baseball
Starkweather, Homicide, Children of Thalidomide
- [1959] Buddy Holly, Ben Hur, Space Monkey, Mafia
Hula Hoops, Castro, Edsel is a No-Go
- [1960] U-2, Syngman Rhee, Payola and Kennedy
Chubby Checker, Psycho, Belgians in the Congo

We Didn't Start the Fire
It Was Always Burning

Lake Ridge Academy - US History - Mr. Isherwood

Since the World's Been Turning
We Didn't Start the Fire
No We Didn't Light It
But We Tried to Fight It

[1961] Hemingway, Eichmann, Stranger in a Strange Land
Dylan, Berlin, Bay of Pigs Invasion
[1962] Lawrence of Arabia, British Beatlemania
Ole Miss, John Glenn, Liston Beats Patterson
[1963] Pope Paul, Malcolm X, British Politician Sex
J.F.K Blown Away, What Else Do I Have to Say

We Didn't Start the Fire
It Was Always Burning
Since the World's Been Turning
We Didn't Start the Fire
No We Didn't Light It
But We Tried to Fight It

[1964- Birth Control, Ho Chi Minh, Richard Nixon Back Again
1989] Moonshot, Woodstock, Watergate, Punk Rock
Begin, Reagan, Palestine, Terror on the Airline
Ayatollah's in Iran, Russians in Afghanistan
Wheel of Fortune, Sally Ride, Heavy Metal, Suicide
Foreign Debts, Homeless Vets
Aids, Crack, Bernie Goetz
Hypodermics on the Shores, China's Under Martial Law
Rock and Roller Cola Wars, I Can't Take It Anymore

We Didn't Start the Fire
It Was Always Burning
Since the World's Been Turning
We Didn't Start the Fire
But When We Are Gone
Will It Still Burn On, And On, And On, And On...

With God on Our Side

by Bob Dylan [1963]

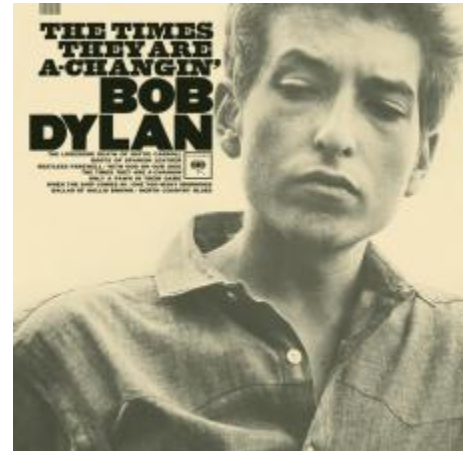
Oh, my name it ain't nothin'
My age it means less
The country I come from
Is called the Midwest
I's taught and brought up there
The laws to abide
And that the land that I live in
Has God on its side

Aw, the history books tell it
They tell it so well
The cavalries charged
The Indians fell
The cavalries charged
The Indians died
For the country was young
With God on its side

The Spanish-American War
Had its day
And the Civil War too
Was soon laid away
And the names of the heroes
I's made to memorize
With guns in their hands
And God on their side

The First World War, boys
It came and it went
The reason for fightin'
I never did get
But I learned to accept it
Accept it with pride
For you don't count the dead
When God's on your side

The Second World War
Came to an end
We forgave the Germans
And then we were friends
Though they murdered six million
In the ovens they fried
The Germans now too have
God on their side



Lake Ridge Academy – US History – Mr. Isherwood

I've learned to hate the Russians
All through my whole life
If another war comes
It's them we must fight
To hate them and fear them
To run and to hide
And accept it all bravely
With God on my side

But now we got weapons
Of chemical dust
If fire them we're forced to
Then fire them we must
One push of the button
And a shot the worldwide
And you never ask questions
When God's on your side

Through many dark hour
I've been thinkin' about this
That Jesus Christ was
Betrayed by a kiss
But I can't think for ya
You'll have to decide
Whether Judas Iscariot
Had God on his side

So now as I'm leavin'
I'm weary as hell
The confusion I'm feelin'
Ain't no tongue can tell
The words fail my head
And they fall to the floor
That if God's on our side
He'll stop the next war