



The Day The Music Died

Activity One

Watch the video and answer the questions as you watch it.

You Tube - the story behind American Pie

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRwGxswYcJk>

1. Which three explanations are given for Don Mc Lean writing this song ?
2. How many different references to music and bands did you notice ?
3. Which symbols or cultural references did you notice ?
4. What was the name of Buddy Holly's band ?
5. Who is Miss American Pie ?
6. Who is Jack ?
7. Where did Holly's plane crash ?
8. Who is the girl who sang the blues ?
9. Who were the three men McClean admired the most (two possibilities).
10. Who was supposed to be in Buddy's plane ?
11. Which song was written about McClean ?
12. Why did he use symbols ?
13. Are you familiar with this song ?
14. Do you like the song ?

Activity Two – Read and identify the different past tenses used in the song.

Activity Three – Take turns reading the lyrics paying attention to your intonation and pronunciation and explaining which past tenses are used.

A long, long time ago...
I can still remember
How that music used to make me smile.
And I knew if I had my chance
That I could make those people dance
And, maybe, they'd be happy for a while.

But february made me shiver
With every paper I'd deliver.
Bad news on the doorstep;
I couldn't take one more step.

I can't remember if I cried
When I read about his widowed bride,
But something touched me deep inside
The day the music died.

So bye-bye, miss american pie.
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
And them good old boys were drinkin'
whiskey and rye
Singin', "this'll be the day that I die."
"this'll be the day that I die."

Did you write the book of love,
And do you have faith in God above,
If the Bible tells you so?
Do you believe in rock 'n roll,
Can music save your mortal soul,
And can you teach me how to dance real
slow?

Well, I know that you're in love with him
'cause I saw you dancin' in the gym.
You both kicked off your shoes.
Man, I dig those rhythm and blues.

I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck
With a pink carnation and a pickup truck,
But I knew I was out of luck
The day the music died.

I started singin',
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey
and rye
And singin', "this'll be the day that I die."
"this'll be the day that I die."

Now for ten years we've been on our own
And moss grows fat on a rollin' stone,
But that's not how it used to be.

When the jester sang for the king and
queen,
In a coat he borrowed from james dean
And a voice that came from you and me,
Oh, and while the king was looking down,
The jester stole his thorny crown.
The courtroom was adjourned;
No verdict was returned.
And while lennon read a book of marx,
The quartet practiced in the park,
And we sang dirges in the dark
The day the music died.

We were singing,
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey
and rye
And singin', "this'll be the day that I die."
"this'll be the day that I die."

Helter skelter in a summer swelter.
The birds flew off with a fallout shelter,
Eight miles high and falling fast.
It landed foul on the grass.
The players tried for a forward pass,
With the jester on the sidelines in a cast.

Now the half-time air was sweet perfume
While the sergeants played a marching
tune.

We all got up to dance,
Oh, but we never got the chance!
'cause the players tried to take the field;
The marching band refused to yield.
Do you recall what was revealed
The day the music died?

We started singing,
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey
and rye
And singin', "this'll be the day that I die."
"this'll be the day that I die."

Oh, and there we were all in one place,
A generation lost in space
With no time left to start again.
So come on: jack be nimble, jack be quick!
Jack flash sat on a candlestick
Cause fire is the devil's only friend.

Oh, and as I watched him on the stage
My hands were clenched in fists of rage.

No angel born in hell
Could break that satan's spell.
And as the flames climbed high into the
night

To light the sacrificial rite,
I saw satan laughing with delight
The day the music died

He was singing,
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey
and rye
And singin', "this'll be the day that I die.
"this'll be the day that I die."

I met a girl who sang the blues
And I asked her for some happy news,
But she just smiled and turned away.
I went down to the sacred store
Where I'd heard the music years before,
But the man there said the music
wouldn't play.

And in the streets: the children screamed,
The lovers cried, and the poets dreamed.
But not a word was spoken;
The church bells all were broken.
And the three men I admire most:
The father, son, and the holy ghost,
They caught the last train for the coast
The day the music died.

And they were singing,
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
And them good old boys were drinkin'
whiskey and rye
Singin', "this'll be the day that I die.
"this'll be the day that I die."

They were singing,
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey
and rye
Singin', "this'll be the day that I die."

Activity Four – Article – Read the article
and put all the verbs into the correct past
tenses.

1959: Buddy Holly killed in air crash

Three young rock 'n' roll stars 1 **KILLED**
in a plane crash in the United States.
Buddy Holly, 22, Jiles P Richardson -
known as the Big Bopper - 28, and Ritchie
Valens, 17, 2 **DIE** in a crash shortly after
take-off from Clear Lake, Iowa at 0100
local time.

The pilot of the single-engined Beechcraft
Bonanza plane also 3 **KILLED**. Early
reports from the scene suggest the aircraft
SPIN out of control during a light
snowstorm.

Only the pilot's body 4 **FIND** inside the
wreckage as the performers were thrown
clear on impact. Holly 5 **HIRE** the plane
after heating problems developed on his
tourbus.

All three 6 **TRAVEL** to Moorhead,
Minnesota, the next venue in their Winter
Dance Party Tour

Holly 7 **SET UP** the gruelling schedule of
concerts - covering 24 cities in three
weeks - to make money after the break-up
of his band, The Crickets, last year.

Born Charles Hardin Holley - 8 **CHANGE**
to Holly after a misspelling on a contract
,he 9 **HAVE** several hit records, including
a number one, in the US and UK with
That'll be the Day in 1957.

A singer and guitarist, he 10 **INSPIRE** by
Elvis Presley after seeing him at an early
concert in his home town of Lubbock,
Texas. With Presley serving in the Army,
some critics 11 **EXPECT** Holly to take over
his crown. Richard Valenzuela was the
first Mexican American to break into
mainstream music, after 12 **DISCOVER** by
record producer Bob Keane, who changed
his name to Ritchie Valens.

He 13 **MAKE** three albums and achieved a
number two chart position in the US with
his composition Donna - about his
girlfriend - in 1958. His rock 'n' roll re-
working of the traditional Mexican song La
Bamba - on the B-side of Donna 14
RECEIVE also acclaim.

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10. How cold was it in the day ?
11. Where were they flying to ?
12. What coin did they toss ?
13. Why did they nearly get the identity of the people in the plane wrong ?
14. Who was afraid of flying ?

Activity Six – Tell the story of Buddy Holly’s death in your own words. (Work with a partner) as if you were reporting of the crash the next day.

Activity Five – Video – (Stop at 5 minutes.)http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_zrlf6oBFg&feature=related

February 3, 1959-The fatal coin toss(Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and The Big Bopper)

Watch the video and answer the questions.

1. What is the surf ballroom ?
2. Where is it ?
3. What happened in the green room ?
4. When was Buddy hollys last performance ?
5. What is the surf ballroom know for ?
6. What is a coin flip ?
7. Who is interviewed about the coin flip ?
8. What does he talk about ? (He is hard to understand so just try to understand the general ideas.)
9. What did he say about the heating ?

