

NAMES :

“We Didn’t Start the Fire” follow-up assignment

TASK: You and a partner will write 2 stanzas for the song using social, cultural, political, and economic events from **your lifetime**: 1st stanza: birth-10; 2nd stanza: 11-present. The stanzas should be structured the same way as the original song and needs to fit to the original beat of the song

Final product should be typed, designed, and include at least 2 pictures.

Billy Joel on how he wrote the song:

“I had turned forty. It was 1989 and I said "Okay, what's happened in my life?" I wrote down the year 1949. Okay, Harry Truman was president. Popular singer of the day, Doris Day. China went Communist. Another popular singer, Johnnie Ray. Big Broadway show, *South Pacific*. Journalist, Walter Winchell. Athlete, Joe DiMaggio. Then I went on to 1950 [...]. It's one of the worst melodies I've ever written. I kind of like the lyric though.”

Use this sheet of paper to brainstorm and/or research the criteria for your stanzas

SOCIAL

i.e. – movements involving groups: same-sex marriage, marijuana legalization, illegal immigration

CULTURAL

i.e. – internet/music/movies/television shows/sports/celebrities: instagram, Spongebob, Facebook

POLITICAL

i.e. – scandals/important events/elections/wars: 9/11; 2008 election (Obama); Kelly Anne Conway; Trump

ECONOMIC

i.e. – Either good or bad points/inventions/innovation: shark tank, ShamWow!
Recession/recovery

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Grade will be based on the following criteria:

- **Completion/Participation:** _____ / 10
- **Creativity:** _____ / 20
- **Social/Political/Economic/Cultural References:** _____ / 20

- **Total:** _____ / 50

FINISHED PRODUCT

By (your names)

Stanza 1

Harry Truman, Doris Day, Red China, Johnnie Ray
South Pacific, Walter Winchell, Joe DiMaggio
Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon, Studebaker, Television
North Korea, South Korea, Marilyn Monroe
Rosenbergs, H-Bomb, Sugar Ray, Panmunjom
Brando, The King And I, and The Catcher In The Rye
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

Stanza 2

Joseph Stalin, Malenkov, Nasser and Prokofiev
Rockefeller, Campanella, Communist Bloc
Roy Cohn, Juan Peron, Toscanini, Dacron
Dien Bien Phu Falls, "Rock Around the Clock"
Einstein, James Dean, Brooklyn's got a winning team
Davy Crockett, Peter Pan, Elvis Presley, Disneyland
Bardot, Budapest, Alabama, Khrushchev
Princess Grace, Peyton Place, Trouble in the Suez

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