

*American Pie*  
by  
*D. McLean*  
**Webquest on MUSIC**

---

- Answer the following questions based on the song *American Pie*.
- Please do not forget to include the bibliographic references (both online and/or printed) you used for answering at the end of each question.



**listen to the song**

- Question 1. What kind of music does he refer to with “(the day) the music died”. What is this type of music a metaphor of?
- Question 2. What is Altamont remembered for?
- Question 3. Name three groups that emerged during the period of time embraced by the song.
- Question 4. Rock ‘n’ roll experiences: what changes during this period of time?
- Question 5. The song takes the death of a singer as the departure event for the song. Who is this singer? How did s/he die?
- Question 6. What kind of change did Bob Dylan represent in music at the time?
- Question 7. Who was the king of rock n’ roll till then?
- Question 8. What music band had a considerable protagonism in this period?
- Question 9. What does “Helter Skelter” make reference to?
- Question 10. Name at least three music groups that were associated with social movements.

Question 11. What does *Jack* make a reference to?

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.

Question 12. Verse 108-115 talks about the works of the Rolling Stones *Beggars Banquet* in 1968 and *Let It Bleed* in 1969 . What is the theme of these albums?

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 die

Question 13. These two lines make reference to a violent crime that happened during *Gimme Shelter*. What is it?

And as the flames climbed high into the night  
To moonlight the sacrificial rite