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# Agenda

1. Short Presentation about me
2. Survey
3. Watch advertisement and have a discussion
4. Presentation on an American Holiday, followed by a discussion of your favorite holidays

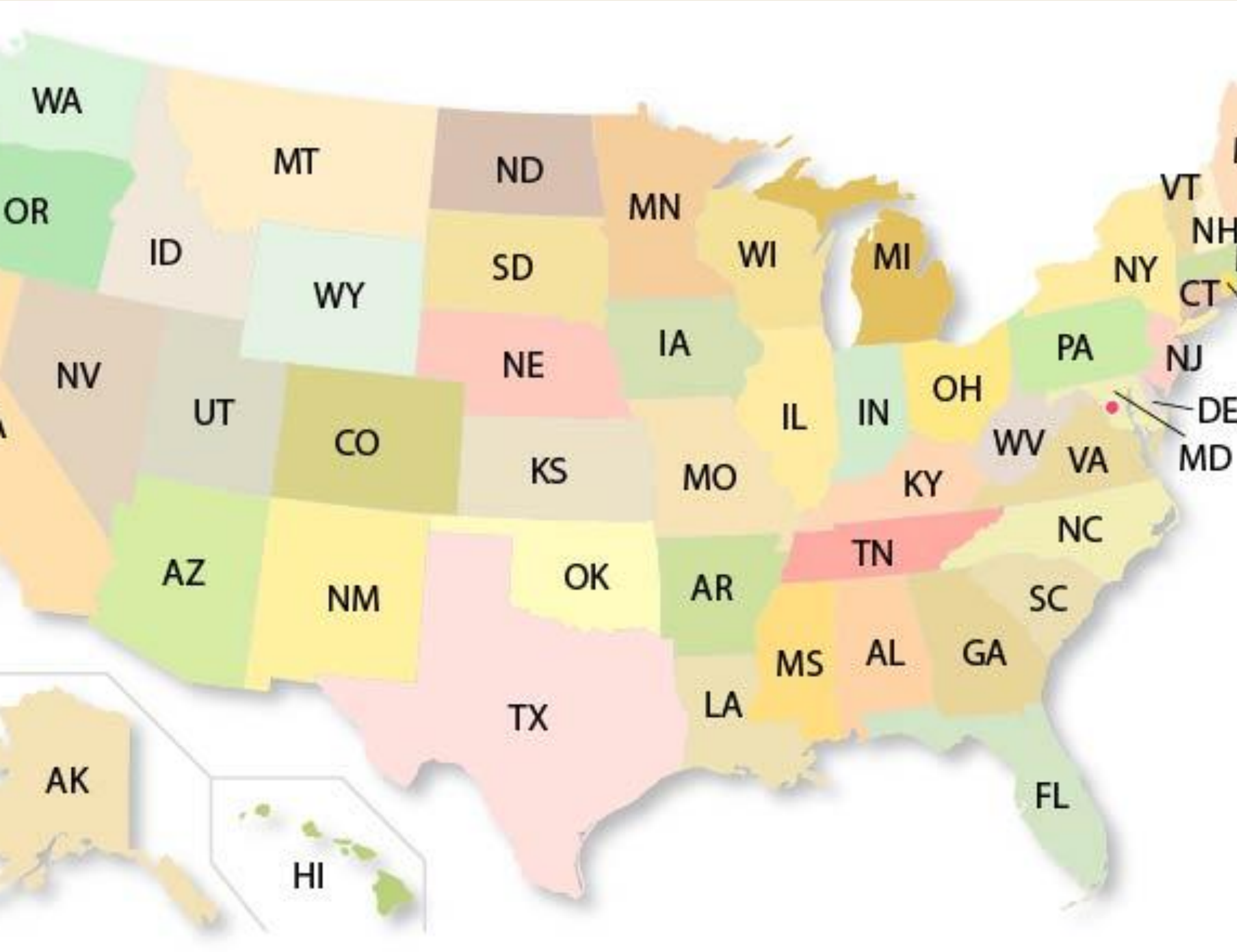


An aerial photograph of a city at sunset. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds, and the sun is low on the right side, creating a bright glow and lens flare. In the center, a tall brick clock tower with a dark, pointed roof stands out. The tower has two clock faces on its lower section. To the left of the tower, a tall, multi-story brick building is visible. To the right, there are several other buildings, including a large one with a flat roof and another with a classical facade. The foreground is filled with green trees and a street with some parked cars. The overall scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun.

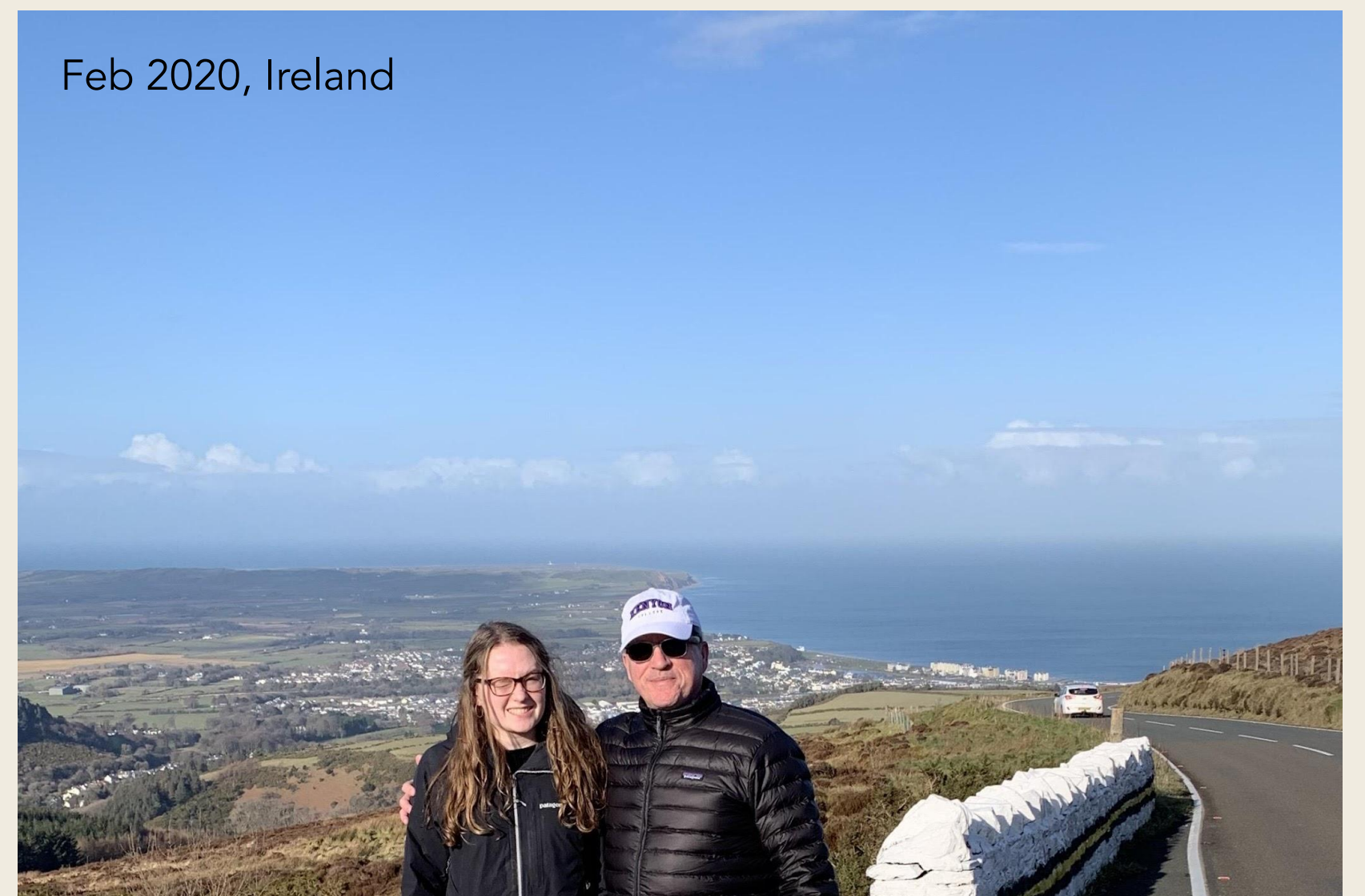
A little about me!

Alyssa Dowling











Kenyon: Political Science,  
Neuroscience, and, Russian

Work: writing tutor, teacher's  
assistant, and volunteer  
coordinating



















I am here on an English Teaching Assistant Grant as part of the Fulbright program. This is an program funded by and run by the U.S. Department of State where people from all over the world come to America to teach their language, and Americans go all over the world to teach English. The program also includes grants for researchers, professors, and more.

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# Short Presentation

Write a short presentation about yourself answering the following questions:

What is your name? How old are you? Where are you from? How many siblings (brothers and sisters) do you have? What are you studying in university? Do you have any hobbies (sports, art, music, etc...)? If yes, why do you like to do that thing?

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# Halloween







# Ancient Origins of Halloween

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- Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago, mostly in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1.
- This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth.
- To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes.





# Ancient Origins of Halloween

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- By 43 A.D., the Roman Empire had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the 400 years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.
- The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple, and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of bobbing for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.
- Fun Fact: One quarter of all the candy sold annually in the U.S. is purchased for Halloween.





# All Saint's Day

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- By the 9th century, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands, where it gradually blended with and supplanted older Celtic rites. In 1000 A.D., the church made November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. It's widely believed today that the church was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, church-sanctioned holiday.
- All Souls' Day was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels and devils. The All Saints' Day celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English Alholowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the traditional night of Samhain in the Celtic religion, began to be called All-Hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.





# Present-Day Halloween

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- In the second half of the 19th century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing the Irish potato famine, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally.
- Borrowing from European traditions, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today's "trick-or-treat" tradition.
- In the late 1800s, there was a move in America to mold Halloween into a holiday more about community and neighborly get-togethers than about ghosts, pranks and witchcraft. At the turn of the century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day. Parties focused on games, foods of the season and festive costumes.



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Find a partner- You and your partner will talk about your favorite holiday, and why it is your favorite holiday.

Remember or write down what your partner says, since you will have to tell the rest of the class what their answer was.

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# Social Media Debate

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- Topic: Is social media, overall, good or bad?
- Related Questions: If you could get rid of social media, would you? If there was one thing you could change about social media, what would it be?
- Instructions: Take 5-10 minutes to discuss this question with your partner. When the time is up, write down your answer and one reason why you think that answer is correct.
- Next, we will vote as a class to see how many people think each answer.



# Effects to Consider

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- Friends and relations
- Online learning, people can share information easily
- Creates jobs
- Reducing communication barriers across distance
- Opportunities for businesses
- Addiction
- Isolation— people can use online socialization to replace real socialization
- Reduced productivity
- Cyberbullying and general negativity
- Negative effects for young people
- Can give a false sense of how other people are living





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# American Music: American Pie

## By Don Mclean (1971)

The repeated phrase "[the day the music died](#)" refers to a plane crash in 1959 that killed early rock and roll stars [Buddy Holly](#), [The Big Bopper](#), and [Ritchie Valens](#), ending the era of [early rock and roll](#); this became the popular nickname for that crash. The theme of the song goes beyond mourning McLean's childhood music heroes, reflecting the deep cultural changes and profound disillusion and loss of innocence of his generation – the early rock and roll generation – that took place between the 1959 plane crash and either [late 1969](#) or [late 1970](#). The meaning of the other lyrics, which cryptically allude to many of the jarring events and social changes experienced during that period, have been debated for decades. McLean repeatedly declined to explain the symbolism behind the many characters and events mentioned; he eventually released his songwriting notes to accompany the original manuscript when it was sold in 2015, explaining many of these, and further elaborated on the lyrical meaning in a 2022 interview/documentary celebrating the song's 50th anniversary, in which he stated the song was driven by [impressionism](#) and debunked some of the more widely speculated symbols.

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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  
Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye  
Singing, "This'll be the day that I die"  
This will 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 dancing in the gym  
You both kicked off your shoes  
Then 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 singing bye-bye, Miss American Pie  
Drove my Chevy to the levee  
But the levee was dry  
Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye  
Singing, "This'll be the day that I die"  
This will be the day that I die  
Now for ten years we've been on our own  
And moss grows fat on a rolling 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 Lenin 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 drinking whiskey and rye  
Singing, "This'll be the day that I die"  
This will be the day that I die



Helter skelter in the 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 halftime 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 drinking whiskey and rye  
And singing, "This'll be the day that I die"  
This will 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 drinking whiskey and rye  
And singing, "This'll be the day that I die"  
This will 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 drinking whiskey and rye  
Singing, "This'll be the day that I die"  
This will 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 drinking whiskey and rye  
Singing, "This'll be the day that I die"



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# Country Music

Definition: Country is a genre of popular music that originated with blues, church music such as Southern gospel and spirituals, old-time, and American folk music forms including Appalachian, Cajun, Creole, and the cowboy Western music styles of New Mexico, Red Dirt, Tejano, and Texas country

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# Country Roads by John Denver (1971)

Almost heaven, West Virginia  
Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River  
Life is old there, older than the trees  
Younger than the mountains, growin' like a  
breeze  
Country roads, take me home  
To the place I belong  
West Virginia, mountain mama  
Take me home, country roads  
All my memories gather 'round her  
Miner's lady, stranger to blue water  
Dark and dusty, painted on the sky  
Misty taste of moonshine, teardrop in my eye  
Country roads, take me home  
To the place I belong  
West Virginia, mountain mama  
Take me home, country roads

I hear her voice in the mornin' hour, she calls me  
The radio reminds me of my home far away  
Drivin' down the road, I get a feelin'  
That I should've been home yesterday, yesterday  
Country roads, take me home  
To the place I belong  
West Virginia, mountain mama  
Take me home, country roads  
Country roads, take me home  
To the place I belong  
West Virginia, mountain mama  
Take me home, country roads  
Take me home, (down) country roads  
Take me home, (down) country roads



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# Ending Questions

Do you have any questions?

Anything you did not understand?

Would writing more things in Russian help you to understand me better, or do you prefer to mostly have things in English?

Any questions, comments, or concerns?

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## Short Film Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the techniques the old man uses to learn English? Have you tried using some of them for your own learning?
2. Why is the old man learning English?
3. This short movie is also a commercial. What is the company selling? How does the story help sell the service or product? Is the appeal to emotions effective?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiGh8KKkN9U>

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# Agenda Part 2

1. Presentations about all of you
2. Debate on social media
3. Discuss and listen to American music
4. Ending Questions



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To start, a survey:

<https://tinyurl.com/PrestonDowling>

You have about 10 minutes to fill this out.

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