Poem Handout two: Americana

**POEM HANDOUT TWO: POEM ONE**

**Little Boxes by Malvina Reynolds**

Little boxes on the hillside,

Little boxes made of ticky tacky,[1](http://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/MALVINA/mr094.htm#1)

Little boxes on the hillside,

Little boxes all the same.

There's a green one and a pink one

And a blue one and a yellow one,

And they're all made out of ticky tacky

And they all look just the same.

And the people in the houses

All went to the university,

Where they were put in boxes

And they came out all the same,

And there's doctors and lawyers,

And business executives,

And they're all made out of ticky tacky

And they all look just the same.

And they all play on the golf course

And drink their martinis dry,

And they all have pretty children

And the children go to school,

And the children go to summer camp

And then to the university,

Where they are put in boxes

And they come out all the same.

And the boys go into business

And marry and raise a family

In boxes made of ticky tacky

And they all look just the same.

There's a green one and a pink one

And a blue one and a yellow one,

And they're all made out of ticky tacky

And they all look just the same.

*1. The term "ticky tacky" is now included in the Oxford English Dictionary and credited to Reynolds.*

*2. Pete Seeger's recording of “Little Boxes,” which is a song, reached as high as number seventy on Billboard and number seventy-two on Cashbox in early 1964.*

*Reynolds, Malvina. (1962). Little Boxes.* [*http://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/MALVINA/mr094.htm*](http://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/MALVINA/mr094.htm)

**POEM HANDOUT TWO: POEM TWO**

**Baby Boomers by Phil Smith**

They are the Baby Boomers

Born to reunited families

Split by the war

A baby boom

Felt around the World

They were to change humanity

1955 started a revolution

Their parent's music was boring

New music was jumping

They turned up the volume

Hips started to gyrate

Rock 'n' Roll was Satan's music

Slick hair swivelling hips

A southern boy from Tennessee

Was every father's nightmare

He was everywhere

Records TV and movies

Elvis Presley was king

Baby boomers and their music

Changed the world forever

Children of the revolution

Starting to ask why

Growing beards and long hair

All roads led to San Francisco

Sex drugs and rock 'n' roll

Boomers were very different

Never to get old

Their parents always looked old

The World changed for them

Catering their every need

Trying not to sound like parents

Boomers invented living together

Kids without weddings

Naming them Sky and Summer

Maturing into jobs

Responsible and hard working

Spoilt their kids with

Stereos TVs and phones

Most forgot the sixties

Short hair suit and tie

Making a corporate fortune

To support the new lifestyle

Don't have to grow old

First generation not to

Women wear girls clothes

Fathers and sons t shirt and jeans

Radio stations play their music

Discos for the over 40's

Sports activities and clothes

Have aged with them

Once sport finished at thirty

Now we have over sixties sport

Never too old for anything

Boomer will always be young

*Smith, Phil. (2007). Baby Boomers.* [*https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/baby-boomers/*](https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/baby-boomers/)

**POEM HANDOUT TWO: POEM THREE**

**1953 Young Mantle Hits One by Robert L. Harrison**

It was a shot like no other

tearing into the breath of God,

leaving earth and grass and fans.

A sphere for the ages racing along

casting no shadow in frozen space

finally arching for the great fall.

Described on the radio as a new star,

a stellar moment of freedom expressed

bright and clean as a summer's dream.

*Harrison, Robert L. (1999). 1953 Young Mantle Hits One. https://www.baseball-almanac.com/poetry/po\_1953.shtml*