

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
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>

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/>

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