

**h**istory theatre



**Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story**  
**Play Guide**

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## **Table Of Contents**

**Pages 3—4  
The Day the Music Die**

**Pages 5-8  
Bobby Vee  
Discography**

**Page 9-11  
Principal Players**

**Page 12-14  
Overview of Dementia**

**16-21  
Activities**

**Page 22-23  
Furthering Reading**

# The Day the Music Died

The song “American Pie” has both captivated and mystified countless generations of listeners since its debut on March 14, 1971. While music aficionados have spent the last four decades attempting to unravel the abundant references in Don McLean’s opus, there was one lyric that needed no further investigation:

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

It just so happened that on February 4, 1959, 13-year-old Don McLean was folding up newspapers for his morning delivery route when he read about the fatal plane crash that took the life of one of his greatest inspirations, Buddy Holly. It would be about another twelve years before McLean would compose “American Pie” and provide the American public with this catchy lyric to embody the grief of that fateful day.

While February 3, 1959 is now often considered to be the date of rock music’s first tragedy, it seemed just like any other to a tour-weary Buddy Holly. He and his band were one of the acts involved in the Winter Dance Party Tour that was sweeping through the Midwest. Besides Holly and his band, Ritchie Valens, Dion and The Belmonts, and J.P. “The Big Bopper” Richardson were the other acts that comprised the 24-city tour. Unfortunately for the performers, travel considerations had not been high on the organizer’s list.

In the peak of bitter winter temperatures the acts were left to travel between venues on unheated buses. On one particular excursion the buses broke down twice, leaving Holly’s drummer Carl Bunch with a nasty case of frostbite. While Bunch was carted to the nearest hospital, Holly decided that he had suffered enough.



Before their performance in Clear Lake, Iowa he chartered a small plane that would carry himself, Waylon Jennings, and Tommy Allsup to Fargo. The next stop on the tour was Moorhead, Minnesota, which was directly across the state line from Fargo.

The aircraft was only equipped to seat three passengers along with the pilot, Roger Peterson. When Holly made the arrangements, he had expected to have his bandmates Jennings and Allsup onboard with him. However, after the freezing temperatures on the buses, Richardson had contracted the flu. Jennings agreed to give up his seat for his ill tour mate. According to Jennings’ autobiography, after Holly learned that he wouldn’t be flying with him, he teased his bassist saying, “Well, I hope your ol’ bus freezes up.” To which Jennings retorted, “Well, I hope your ol’ plane crashes.” Unfortunately for Jennings, he had no idea just how much this brotherly banter would haunt him for the rest of his life.

The final seat was determined by a coin toss. Ritchie Valens, who had previously been afraid of flying, was not eager to spend another rough night on the icy bus. Local DJ Bob Hale flipped the fateful coin that won Valens his seat on the plane and Allsup the rest of his life.

It was this trio that found themselves taking off at roughly 12:55 AM on February 3 from Clear Lake airport.

While it was reported that there was only a light snow at the time of departure, it was clear that inclement weather lay ahead and Peterson was not prepared to handle it. Around 1 AM, after Peterson failed to make his expected radio call into the tower, a flight was dispatched to follow his planned route. Within mere minutes of ascending and retracing the path of the Beechwood Bonanza, the wreckage was found.



Just 6 miles northwest of the airport, Peterson and his passengers had crashed at top speed. The right wing had struck the ground first, which sent the aircraft corkscrewing across the field before coming to rest.

These fatally high speeds had ejected Holly, Valens, and Richardson from the plane, while Peterson had remained tangled inside the aircraft. According to the coroner, all four victims died instantly upon impact.

While this tragic event marked a turning point for countless family and fans, it would also serve as an unexpected new beginning.

The Winter Dance Party decided to push onward despite the horrific losses that had occurred that very day. The rest of the tour had arrived on the buses in Moorhead, and it was decided that they would persevere for their friends. Promoters asked among the locals to help fill in the heartbreaking openings in their company. And it was in that seemingly darkest of moments that the bright light of Bobby Vee first arrived.

# Bobby Vee



On April 30, 1943, Robert Thomas Velline was born in Fargo, North Dakota to Sydney Velline and Saima Tapanila. While there was no way to anticipate his future musical success, it did seem quite likely as he was born into a family of musicians. Sydney played both the piano and violin, while his two older brothers both played the guitar.

Bobby would begin his musical background by playing the saxophone in the high school band. He saved enough money doing a paper route to purchase a Harmony guitar. He began to gravitate towards playing country music and exploring his own sound on the guitar. Soon fifteen-year-old Bobby was desperate to jam alongside his big brother Bill.

Bill, who had become an accomplished guitarist himself, had begun participating in group jam sessions with his friends Jim Stillman and Bob Korum. While Stillman played the bass and Korum was on drums, the group was missing a key component: a vocalist. This was how Bobby managed to convince Bill to let him join in the makeshift music group. This initial grouping would eventually become The Shadows.

Bobby's career began amid tragedy. On February 3, 1959 an airplane carrying Ritchie Valens, Buddy Holly, and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson crashed near Clear Lake, Iowa. The trio of artists were a part of the Winter Dance Party tour that was traveling throughout the Midwest on a 24-city circuit. The company was traveling to Moorhead, Minnesota for the next stop on their tour when the tragedy occurred.

Yet, even as the remaining members of the tour arrived by bus in Moorhead, it was decided that the performance for that night, and the tour in general, would continue. A call went out around the Moorhead area imploring locals to help fill the gaps in the program. Bobby and The Shadows answered the call.

After the success of this performance, Bobby and his friends began to be hired for gigs. It wasn't until June 1, 1959 that the group made their way to Minneapolis to record their first song, "Susie Baby". The success of this first single was something that the boys couldn't have anticipated. The song became a number one on local stations throughout the Midwest with Liberty Records signing the band that fall.

After a while it became clear that this arrangement wasn't the best for everyone involved. Bill decided to return back home and attend to his own affairs. The music seemed to be plateauing, with no songs really breaking the charts. Liberty Records was growing impatient with their young act when a stroke of luck occurred.



A DJ in Pittsburgh decided to play the B-side of one of Bobby's records, which was a remake of a song called "Devil or Angel". Suddenly the single was creeping onto the top ten lists in countless cities across the nation. With renewed faith, Liberty decided to sign Bobby to his own five-year contract. Bobby Vee was suddenly a name on the lips of countless fans across the country. His music continued to permeate the top ten lists and soon began to achieve international acclaim as well. Soon he had seven top ten hits in the United Kingdom and was receiving airtime comparable to the Beatles.

On December 28, 1963 Bobby married his sweetheart Karen Bergen. The couple had four children: Jeffrey Velline, Thomas Velline, Robert Velline, and Jennifer Velline. The pair would enjoy 51 years of marriage before Karen passed away due to kidney failure on August 3, 2015.

Bobby proceeded to tour multiple countries, such as Japan, Australia and Europe. As the 1990s arrived so too did a renewed interest in the timeless music of Bobby Vee. As Bobby went on a sold-out tour of England in 1990 his own label, Rockhouse Records, released a tape called *U.K. Tour 90* which also included new pieces Bobby had recorded with his sons.

While Bobby has received countless accolades throughout his extensive career, perhaps one of the most personal occurred on June 20, 1999 when he received The Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award. This honor is the highest recognition that the state can give to a native North Dakotan.

While Bobby continued to make and perform his own music, he received an early diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease in 2011. While this diagnosis contributed to Bobby's decision to retire from the music industry, it also allowed Bobby to indulge in more time with his family. He even recorded a CD of music that he made with his family in the comfort of their winter home in Arizona.

From 1959 to 1970, Bobby had 38 top 100 hit songs; including 6 Gold Records, 14 top 40 hits and 2 gold albums. To this day Bobby Vee remains both a national and international treasure seated deep in the hearts of countless fans.



# Bobby Vee Discography

From 1959 to 1970, Bobby had 38 top 100 hit songs; including 6 Gold Records, 14 top 40 hits and 2 gold albums. To this day Bobby Vee remains both a national and international treasure seated deep in the hearts of countless fans. Listed are his top 38 singles.

8/7/60

Gold - Devil or Angel



12/4/60

Gold — Rubber Ball



Date	# On Chart	Song
9/6/59	77	Susie Baby
4/10/60	93	What Do You Want?
9/18/60	81	Since I Met You Baby
8/7/60	<b>6— Gold</b>	Devil or Angel
12/4/60	<b>6— Gold</b>	Rubber Ball
2/19/61	33	Stayin' In
3/5/61	61	More Than I Can Say
6/4/61	63	How Many Tears
8/13/61	<b>1— Gold</b>	Take Good Care Of My Baby
11/13/61	<b>2— Gold</b>	Run To Him
12/3/61	53	Walking With My Angel
2/24/62	15	Please Don't Ask About Barbara
2/24/62	92	I Can't Say Goodbye
5/19/62	15	Sharing You
9/1/62	20	Punish Her
9/22/62	99	Someday
12/8/62	<b>3— Gold</b>	The Night Has A Thousand Eyes
3/30/63	13	Charms
6/22/63	34	Be True To Yourself
6/29/63	85	A Letter From Betty
11/9/63	55	Yesterday And You (Armen's Theme)

Date	# On Chart	Song
12/28/63	99	Never Love a Robin
1/25/64	83	Stanger In Your Arms
2/22/64	52	I'll Make You Mine
5/30/64	63	Hickory, Dick and Doc
12/5/64	97	Pretend You Don't See Her
12/12/64	84	(There'll Come A Day When) Every Little Bit Hurts
2/6/65	99	Cross My Heart
5/8/65	85	Keep On Trying
7/99/66	85	Look At Me Girl
7/22/67	<b>3- Gold</b>	Come Back When You Grow Up
11/18/67	37	Beautiful People
2/10/68	46	Maybe Just Today
2/10/68	35	My Girl/Hey Girl
8/31/68	83	Do What You Gotta Do
12/28/68	98	I'm Looking For Someone To Love
8/2/69	92	Let's Call It A Day
11/15/70	88	Sweet Sweetheart

12/8/62

Gold The Night Has A Thousand Eyes



8/13/61

Gold Take Good Card of My Baby



11/31/61

Gold Run To Him



7/22/67

Gold Come Back When You Grow Up







## Del Shannon

Del Shannon was born Charles Weedon Westover on December 30, 1934 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While growing up he learned to play both the ukulele and guitar, but as he was drafted by the Army in 1954 his musical skills were used mostly to entertain his comrades in Germany.

It wasn't until he was back home in Michigan working odd jobs that he fell in with Doug DeMott's group, The Moonlight Ramblers. Eventually Doug was fired and Shannon assumed leadership of the group under the name Charlie Johnson. However it wasn't until 1960 when Ann Arbor disc jockey Ollie McLaughlin took some demos to Talent Artists of Detroit that Westover was signed. At the behest of one of his new agents the pseudonym Del Shannon was born.

Working with his keyboardist Max Crook, the first few attempts at recording proved less than successful. It was McLaughlin who encouraged Shannon and Crook to revisit one of their old songs "Little Runaway" and revamp the piece. The revised song was simply called "Runaway" and was recorded on January 21, 1961. The single became a No. 1 *Billboard* hit and is often considered Shannon's defining piece.

The success of Runaway didn't stop Shannon from continuing to make music. "Hats Off to Larry" was another single that made its way to a #5 spot on the *Billboard* lists in 1961. However, by 1963 Shannon's relationship with his management had gone south and so he proceeded to make his own label, Berlee Records. Unfortunately Shannon didn't have much success on his own and eventually resigned with his managers. While "Hats Off to Larry" and "Keep Searchin" were the only other top-10 hits that Shannon would have in the U.S., he would have a more prominent career in the United Kingdom with five more songs that would place in the top 10.

Throughout the 1970s Shannon's career began to stagnate due to his struggles with alcoholism. It wasn't until 1978 when he quit drinking that he was able to really invest himself in his music once more. That same year he began working on *Drop Down and Get Me*, an album produced by Tom Petty. While Shannon continued to perform throughout the 1980s he also was engaged in his own difficult battle with depression. Even though he was working on a comeback album produced by Jeff Lynne and there were rumors that he would be joining the Traveling Wilburys, sadly on February 8, 1990 Del Shannon died by suicide in his Santa Clarita home.

## Dion DiMucci

Dion DiMucci was born on July 18, 1939 in the Bronx. Similarly to Bobby Vee's artistic origins, Dion's father was a vaudeville entertainer who passed on a love of performing to his own son. Dion would often accompany his father and subsequently provide vocals while performing on the streets of the Bronx. After being signed by Mohawk Records in 1957 and recording his first single, *The Chosen Few*, Dion returned to his neighborhood and recruited three of his friends to help him create the music he wanted to make. After Mohawk signed Dion's new additions, Dion and the Belmonts was born. The first few singles that the group released were prime examples of the Italian-American doo-wop of the time, with "I Wonder Why" serving as their biggest smash in this genre. "A Teenager in Love" would go on to become the group's most popular single.



In 1960 Dion became a solo artist. His sound gravitated away from doo-wop and settled into more of an R&B-oriented style. Soon he had hits such as "Lonely Teenager", "The Wanderer", and "Runaround Sue" that made Dion into a cultural icon of the time. In 1963 Dion signed with the well-renowned label Columbia and shortly after released the hits "Ruby Baby" and "Donna the Prima Donna". Unfortunately it was also at this time that Dion's heroin addiction began to affect his work. It wasn't until 1968 when Dion experienced what he described as a religious experience that he was able to get clean and redefine himself.

Dion was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1989 and was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame for "Runaround Sue" in 2002. Dion continues to release new music and perform in concerts to this day. He is also a practicing Roman Catholic who is involved with prison ministry and also works with men who are going through addiction recovery.



## Bob Dylan

On May 24, 1941, Robert Allen Zimmerman was born in Duluth, Minnesota. While he performed a few gigs during high school it was in 1959 that he began performing under the alias of Elston Gunnn. He even played a few gigs with a young Bobby Vee during this time.

In 1959, he enrolled in the University of Minnesota. It was during this period that the pseudonym of the rocker Elston Gunnn was substituted for the folk musician Bob Dylan. In 1960 Dylan dropped out of school and moved to New York to be by his idol Woody Guthrie and began performing around Greenwich Village. After one of these performances received a positive review in *The New York Times*, Dylan was signed to Columbia Records.

Throughout the 1960s, Bob Dylan cemented himself as a voice of the protest movement that was sweeping the nation, particularly with the album *The Times They Are A-Changin'*. By the mid-1960s Dylan was slowly incorporating elements of rock into his folk-style music, occasionally resulting in resistance from his fans; such as when he was booed at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965 for playing an electric guitar. However he would soon put those dissenting voices to rest with the release of his album *Highway 61 Revisited* which included the iconic piece "Like a Rolling Stone".

After a near-fatal motorcycle accident in 1966, Dylan went into seclusion and proceeded to reinvent his music. The 1969 album *Nashville Skyline* featured a radically different singing voice from Dylan with a country music style. Throughout the 1980s and into the present day Dylan has continued to make music. Most notably, he was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1989 and in 1997 he became the first rock star to ever receive the Kennedy Center Honors. In 2011 *Rolling Stone* magazine declared "Like a Rolling Stone" the greatest song of all time. The Minnesota native has performed for the Pope, written memoirs, and had Martin Scorsese direct a documentary about his life and work.

## Dick Clark

On November 30, 1929 Richard Augustus Wagstaff "Dick" Clark Jr. was born in Mount Vernon, New York. While studying at Syracuse University, he worked at a country music station called WOLF-AM before getting picked up by the TV station WKTU in Utica, New York. His first television-hosting job came on the country-music program *Cactus Dick and the Santa Fe Riders*.

As 1952 rolled around, Clark moved to Drexel, Pennsylvania to take on the role of disc jockey at WFIL. WFIL also had a television station that broadcast a show called *Bob Horn's Bandstand*. Dick would fill in as host for the show when Horn was away traveling. Horn was arrested in 1956 for drunk driving and subsequently fired from the show. It was at this time that Dick Clark assumed the role as host.



The show picked up by ABC and renamed *American Bandstand*. As the show premiered on August 5, 1957, no one had any idea just what a cultural staple the show-and Clark-would become. During Clark's time as host of *American Bandstand* he would provide exposure to countless unheard of artists such as Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Stevie Wonder, Simon & Garfunkel, and Ike and Tina Turner. *Bandstand* also provided the nation with examples of integration, as both black and white musicians were performing on the same stage and the audience sat without segregation.

Clark would go on to host a multitude of successful game shows such as *The \$10,000 Pyramid* and *The Challengers*. In 1972, NBC broadcast its very first *New Year's Rockin' Eve*, which was produced by Clark. He would transition the production to ABC in 1975 and assumed the role of host. The show soon became the most watched New Year's Eve broadcast each year. In 1973 Clark produced and created the American Music Awards show, which provided yet another way in which he helped to bring music to the forefront of American society.

In December 2004 Clark suffered a stroke that impaired his speech. He continued to make appearances on *New Year's Rockin' Eve* shows until his death on April 18, 2012. Clark passed away from a heart attack at the age of 82. His contributions to the lives of countless artists, not to mention rock & roll in general, serve as reminders of his lasting legacy.



## Snuff Garrett

Music producer Thomas Lesslie Garrett was born in Dallas on July 5, 1938. He acquired his nickname in junior high from Levi Garrett, a popular brand of snuff at the time. After quitting high school in the ninth grade, Garrett struck out for Hollywood with hopes of getting into the music business but the closest he got was working in a record store on Sunset Boulevard. Returning to Texas, he was working as a disc jockey when he contacted a former co-worker from the Hollywood record store to help him get hired at Liberty Records.

His first major signing as a producer was Bobby Vee in 1959, also resulting in Garrett's first No. 1 song with *"Take Good Care of My Baby"*. He left Liberty after seven years to start his own company and over time went on to produce more hits like *"The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia"* with Vicki Lawrence and *"Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves"* with Cher.

Snuff Garrett passed away from cancer at the age of 77 on December 16, 2015.

## Little Anthony

Jerome Anthony "Little Anthony" Gourdine was born on January 8, 1941 and grew up in the Fort Greene Housing Project in Brooklyn, New York. He was raised in a musical family, with his mother singing gospel music and his father playing alto and tenor saxophone. While in high school, Gourdine and his friends created a doo-wop group called The Duponts.



In 1957, Gourdine joined a new group called the The Chesters as the lead vocalist. The group recorded *"Tears on My Pillow"*, which became an instant success. The Chesters changed their name to Little Anthony and The Imperials in 1959, and released their second hit single *"Shimmy, Shimmy, Ko-Ko-Bop"*, which sold one million records. From 1964 through 1967, Little Anthony and The Imperials achieved success with songs like

*"I'm Outside Looking In"*, *"Goin' Out of My Head"*, and *"Hurt So Bad"*. Gourdine left the group in 1975 to begin an acting and solo singing career. Little Anthony and The Imperials performed their first reunion show in 1992 in New York City. Over the years, they have had seventeen pop and twelve R&B chart hits. In 2009, Little Anthony and the Imperials were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Gourdine currently lives in Las Vegas and still tours occasionally with the Imperials.

## The Shirelles and The Ronettes



The Shirelles and The Ronettes were American girl groups in the 1960s. The Shirelles formed in 1957 when classmates Shirley Owens, Doris Coley, Addie "Micki" Harris and Beverly Lee participated in a talent show at their New Jersey high school. Their first single *"I Met Him on a Sunday"* was released in 1958 and group shot to fame with their hit *"Tonight's the Night"* in 1960. It was followed by *"Will You Love Me Tomorrow"*, which went on to become the first Billboard number-one hit by an African-American girl group.

The Ronettes got their start in New York City when sisters Veronica and Estelle Bennett, along with their cousin Nedra Talley, started singing together in childhood. The group had their first public performance at an amateur show at the Apollo Theatre. In 1963 The Ronettes signed on to Philles Records and by the end of the year had released their signature song *"Be My Baby"*, which peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard top 100. That song was followed by other hits such as *"Baby, I Love You"* and *"Walking in the Rain"*.



# Overview of Dementia

The number of Americans living with dementia is growing — and growing fast. An estimated 5.4 million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer's disease in 2016.

- Of the 5.4 million Americans with Alzheimer's, an estimated 5.2 million people are age 65 and older, and approximately 200,000 individuals are under age 65 (younger-onset Alzheimer's).
- One in nine people age 65 and older has Alzheimer's disease.
- By mid-century, someone in the United States will develop the disease every 33 seconds.
- Alzheimer's disease is the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States.
- In 2015 more than 15 million caregivers provided more than 18.1 billion hours of unpaid care.
- In 2016 Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$236 billion.
- It kills more than breast and prostate cancers combined.

These numbers will escalate rapidly in coming years, as the baby boom generation has begun to reach age 65 and beyond, the age range of greatest risk of Alzheimer's. By 2050, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's disease may nearly triple, from 5.2 million to a projected 13.8 million, barring the development of medical breakthroughs to prevent or cure the disease. Previous estimates based on high range projections of population growth provided by the U.S. Census suggest that this number may be as high as 16 million.

Dementia refers to a loss of cognitive function due to changes in the brain caused by disease or trauma. The changes may occur gradually or quickly; and how they occur may determine whether dementia is reversible or irreversible. Cognition is the act or process of thinking, perceiving, and learning. Cognitive functions that may be affected by dementia include the following: decision making, judgment, memory, spatial orientation, thinking, reasoning and verbal communication. Dementia also may result in behavioral and personality changes, depending on the area(s) of the brain affected.

## Types of Dementia

Some dementia is reversible and can be cured partially or completely with treatment. The degree of reversibility often depends on how quickly the underlying cause is treated. Irreversible dementia is caused by an incurable condition (e.g., Alzheimer's disease). Patients with irreversible dementia are eventually unable to care for themselves and may require round-the-clock care. Irreversible dementias include:

- Lewy Body
- Pick's Disease
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
- Huntington's Disease
- Parkinson's Disease
- Vascular Dementia
- Alzheimer's Disease

### **Mild Alzheimer's disease**

In the early stages, a person may function independently. They may still drive, work or be part of social activities. Despite this, the person may feel as if they are having memory lapses, such as forgetting words or the location of everyday objects, coming up with the right words or names, or have increasing trouble with planning or organizing.

### **Moderate Alzheimer's disease**

This is typically the longest stage and can last for many years. As the disease progresses, the person will require a greater level of care. At this point, symptoms will be noticeable to others and may include forgetfulness of events or about personal history, feeling moody or withdrawn, personality and behavioral changes, an increase in wandering and getting lost and in some the loss bladder and bowel control.

### **Advanced Alzheimer's disease**

In the final stage of this disease, individuals lose the ability to respond to their environment, to carry on a conversation and be able to control movement. They will require full time assistance with daily personal care and activities, have difficulty communicating, lose awareness of recent experiences as well as surroundings, experience changes in physical abilities and become vulnerable to infections, especially pneumonia.

## **10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's disease—developed by the Alzheimer's Assoc**

1. **Memory loss that disrupts daily life.** One of the most common signs of Alzheimer's, especially in the early stages, is forgetting recently learned information. Others include forgetting important dates or events; asking for the same information over and over; relying on memory aides (e.g., reminder notes or electronic devices) or family members for things they used to handle on their own. **What's typical?** Sometimes forgetting names or appointments, but remembering them later.
2. **Challenges in planning or solving problems.** Some people may experience changes in their ability to develop and follow a plan or work with numbers. They may have trouble following a familiar recipe or keeping track of monthly bills. They may have difficulty concentrating and take much longer to do things than they did before. **What's typical?** Making occasional errors when balancing a checkbook.
3. **Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure.** People with Alzheimer's often find it hard to complete daily tasks. Sometimes, people may have trouble driving to a familiar location, managing a budget at work or remembering the rules of a favorite game. **What's typical?** Occasionally needing help to use the settings on a microwave or to record a television show.



4. **Confusion with time or place.** People with Alzheimer's can lose track of dates, seasons and the passage of time. They may have trouble understanding something if it is not happening immediately. Sometimes they may forget where they are or how they got there. **What's typical?** Getting confused about the day of the week but figuring it out later.

5. **Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships.** For some people, having vision problems is a sign of Alzheimer's. They may have difficulty reading, judging distance and determining color or contrast. In terms of perception, they may pass a mirror and think someone else is in the room. They may not recognize their own reflection. **What's typical?** Vision changes related to cataracts.

6. **New problems with words in speaking or writing.** People with Alzheimer's may have trouble following or joining a conversation. They may stop in the middle of a conversation and have no idea how to continue or they may repeat themselves. They may struggle with vocabulary, have problems finding the right word or call things by the wrong name (e.g., calling a watch a "hand clock"). **What's typical?** Sometimes having trouble finding the right word.

7. **Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps.** A person with Alzheimer's disease may put things in unusual places. They may lose things and be unable to go back over their steps to find them again. Sometimes, they may accuse others of stealing. This may occur more frequently over time. **What's typical?** Misplacing things from time to time, such as a pair of glasses or the remote control.

8. **Decreased or poor judgment.** People with Alzheimer's may experience changes in judgment or decision making. For example, they may use poor judgment when dealing with money, giving large amounts to telemarketers. They may pay less attention to grooming or keeping themselves clean. **What's typical?** Making a bad decision once in a while.

9. **Withdrawal from work or social activities.** A person with Alzheimer's may start to remove themselves from hobbies, social activities, work projects or sports. They may have trouble keeping up with a favorite sports team or remembering how to complete a favorite hobby. They may also avoid being social because of the changes. **What's typical?** Sometimes feeling weary of work, family or social obligations.

10. **Changes in mood and personality.** The mood and personalities of people with Alzheimer's can change. They can become confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful or anxious. They may be easily upset at home, at work, with friends or in places where they are out of their comfort zone. **What's typical?** Developing very specific ways of doing things and becoming irritable when a routine is disrupted.

# ACTIVITIES



## **Discussion & Writing Activities**

1. As a young man, Bobby Vee was considered a “teenage idol.” What are the characteristics of a teenage idol? Write about a modern teenage idol and compare/contrast them to Bobby Vee.
2. To what would you attribute Bobby Vee’s longevity in the music industry?
3. Bobby Vee attests to the effect that Buddy Holly’s music and tragic death had on his personal life. Look up and read the musical tribute to Buddy Holly in Dan McLean’s lyrics to “American Pie”. What significance is communicated regarding Buddy Holly’s life and music within the narrative of the lyrics?
4. Have students identify two Oldies songs and two modern ones that they can personally relate to. Ask them to identify what is in the lyrics that speaks to them and how does it help them understand themselves or others?
5. If you were Bobby Vee how do you think you would have reacted to your brother’s behavior? Would you have done anything differently?
6. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt pressured to act a certain way? Write about a time you went along with a crowd, despite feeling that you shouldn’t.
7. Sometimes, when things are difficult, we need to find the courage to do the right thing. In the restaurant scene in the play Little Anthony and a customer have an interesting discussion. What does Little Anthony say to the customer that is surprising? If you heard this conversation, how do you think you would react?
8. Describe ways in which Alzheimer's is a problem for everyone in our society, not just patients and caregivers.

# 1960s Scrapbook

## Lesson Objective

In groups of two or three, research the 1960s to create a scrapbook of the most important events of the decade. Imagine that you are making this book for future generations to look back on to learn about what was really going on at the time. Each member must write one page.

### 1. Cover

The cover should provide the reader with an eye-catching illustration and title for the book (preferably embodying the 1960s). Don't forget to include the names of the group!

### 2. Table of Contents

This page might be best completed after the group has written the remaining articles, but it's important to include nonetheless!

### 3. Politics

This article should serve as a report of the political scene of the 1960s. This includes elections, policies of presidents, and special events.

### 4. Lifestyle

You should focus on lifestyles of the 1960s. The author should provide a summary of pop culture of the era, and then focus on one specific item or event that they mentioned previously. Think big picture and then go small!

### 5. Interview

For this article, the writer should imagine that they have interviewed an important person from the 1960s. The first part of this writing should be a short biography about the individual. It should then be a question and answer dialogue that helps the readers to understand why this person was significant in the 1960s.

### 6. Music Ad

Music was BIG in the 1960s. There were many artists trying to find their own sound and performing lots of different gigs. Choose an artist or group and create an ad for their upcoming performance. Try to include an illustration and a short slogan to help let fans know what kind of music the group makes.

# Online Scavenger Hunt

1. After John F. Kennedy was inaugurated on January 20, 1961, he began to implement what new plan?  
(Hint: it sounds a lot like FDR's New Deal)
2. Although the Vietnam War started in 1955 it would continue throughout the 1960s until its conclusion in 1975. How many Americans served in this war?
3. Which Bobby Vee song contains these lyrics: Now don't you ever make her cry / Just let your love surround her / Paint rainbows all around her / Don't let her see a clouded sky?
4. While Target is one of the most popular chain stores in Minnesota, one of its competitors opened their first store in 1962 in Arkansas. What is the name of this store?
5. Andy Warhol was known for creating some of the most popular art of the 1960s. What was the name of the movement he is primarily known for? Name one of his pieces that falls in this category.
6. Although sports have always been at the forefront of American culture they were an especially welcome distraction during the 1960s. Name three athletes who rose to prominence during this era and the sport they are known for playing.
7. This novel was published on July 11, 1960 and reflects the underlying tensions concerning race inequalities and would go on to win the Pulitzer Prize. What is the title of this classic book? (Hint: The author released a sequel in 2015).
8. During the 1960s television broadcasting began to go from black and white to color transmission. Who was the inventor of color television?



9. Bobby Vee was born in 1943 into a family of talented musicians. What instruments did his father play? His brothers?

10. While Ford Mustangs and Camaros rolled around the streets, they eventually had to stop and fill up! What was the price of a gallon of gas in 1962?

11. What was the name of the producer responsible for signing Bobby Vee to Liberty Records?

12. This book was published in 1962 by Michael Harrington and it shocked then-president John F. Kennedy with its brutal revelation about the rates of poverty in the United States. What is the name of this policy-influencing novel?

13. Early in his career Bobby Vee performed with a young pianist who went by the name Elston Gunnn. What is the real name of this famous Minnesotan? (Bonus: Include 2 of his other performing identities!)

14. On January 15, 1967, the United States had its first...?

# Answers

1. New Frontier
2. Over 9 million served in active duty
3. Take Good Care of My Baby
4. Wal-Mart
5. Visual Art/Pop Art. Answers will vary for artwork, but would include: Campbell Soup Cans, Triple Elvis, Marilyn Diptych
6. Answers will vary
7. To Kill a Mockingbird
8. Peter Carl Goldmark
9. Father: piano & violin Brothers: Guitar
10. 28c
11. Snuff Garrett
12. The Other America
13. Bob Dylan Alias: Tedham Porterhouse, Blind Boy Grunt, Robert Milkwood Thomas, Boo Wilbury, Sergei Petrov
14. Super Bowl

# Coping with Alzheimer's

## Introduction

In this lesson, students will focus on the difficulties that arise in caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's and the coping strategies that caregivers and family members must make. This lesson may be used in any class but is specifically designed for Language Arts students to practice using emotionally descriptive words in their writing.

## Lesson Objectives

Students will:

Write poems or journal entries describing what it might be like to care for an Alzheimer's patient, using careful word choice to describe the emotions and difficulties that tend to arise.

## Teaching Strategy

1. Ask students to think about times when they've received particularly bad news, such as the death or illness of a beloved person or pet, a boyfriend or girlfriend ending a relationship, or news from their parents that they're moving away from their friends to a new town. Ask them to list words, phrases, and metaphors that describe the emotions they experienced and the ways they coped immediately upon receiving this information and for the next few weeks or months after they heard the bad news.
2. Briefly discuss the ways in which words, phrases, and metaphors such as the ones they've listed can be powerful "tools" in conveying emotional experiences. Ask student to choose words and expressions on their list that they feel are particularly powerful or descriptive. What makes them so strong?
3. Have students visit The Forgetting website. Have students visit the coping section. Ask them to look through this section and read about the recommendations for ways that people can cope with a loved one's Alzheimer's disease. Ask students to list at least six specific coping suggestions.

## Project

Have students write poems or journal entries describing what it might be like to care for an Alzheimer's patient. They may write in the first or third person. Their writing should include the following components:

A. Words, phrases, and metaphors that describe the emotions the caregivers may experience during the progression of their loved one's illness.

B. Some ways in which the caregiver might try to cope with his or her difficult situation and interact with the Alzheimer's patient.

## For Further Reading

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Bobbyvee.com

Musso, Anthony. ***Setting the Record Straight: The Music Careers of Recoding Artists from the 1950s and early 1960s. .. In Their Own Words.*** Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2007.

Pollock, Bruce. ***When Rock Was Young, Volume Two.*** ebook. 2014.

Reynolds, Robert. ***The Music of Bobby Vee.*** ebook, 2016.

Wallenfedt, Jeff. ***The Birth of Rock and Roll Music in the 1950's.*** New York: Rosen Publishing, 2012.

## Movies

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### **Swingin' Along (1962)**

A comedy about a songwriting contest, originally released in 1961 as Double Trouble. Scenes were added of Ray Charles (doing "What'd I Say") and Bobby Vee (doing "More Than I Can Say").

### **Play It Cool (1962)**

The film tells the story of a struggling singer, Billy Universe and his band, who befriend an heiress who, against the wishes of her father, is searching for her lover who she has been forbidden to see and who she is hoping to elope with. The plot takes the main characters to a succession of nightclubs where the other stars are performing

### **Just For Fun (1963)**

When English teenagers win the right to vote, the established political parties compete for their support. However, when the Prime Minister cuts the amount of Pop music allowed on TV, young Mark and Cherry start their own 'Teenage Party' and use some of England's pop singers to help.

### **C'Mon Let's Live A Little (1967)**

Enrolling in an Arkansas college, singer Jesse Crawford saves the life of Judy Grant, a dean's daughter. She is grateful until Jesse performs at a rally staged by a student looking to discredit the dean, but Jesse was unaware of the rally's purpose and all is forgiven.

To get information about Alzheimer's and learn about support groups and services for people with the disease and their caregivers, contact the following organizations:

**Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center**

1-800-438-4380 (toll-free)

[adear@nia.nih.gov](mailto:adear@nia.nih.gov)

[www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers](http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers)

The National Institute on Aging's ADEAR Center offers information and publications for families, caregivers, and professionals on diagnosis, treatment, patient care, caregiver needs, long-term care, education and training, and research related to Alzheimer's disease.

**Alzheimer's Association**

1-800-272-3900 (toll-free)

1-866-403-3073 (TTY/toll-free)

[info@alz.org](mailto:info@alz.org)

[www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

**Alzheimer's Foundation of America**

1-866-232-8484 (toll-free)

[info@alzfdn.org](mailto:info@alzfdn.org)

[www.alzfdn.org](http://www.alzfdn.org)

**Eldercare Locator**

1-800-677-1116 (toll-free)

[www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov)

**Family Caregiver Alliance**

1-800-445-8106 (toll-free)

[info@caregiver.org](mailto:info@caregiver.org)

[www.caregiver.org](http://www.caregiver.org)

**MedlinePlus**

[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/alzheimersdisease.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/alzheimersdisease.html)

Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center

**Rakhma Homes**

<http://www.rakhma.org>

612-824-2345

A service of the National Institute Rakhma Homes, a local organization providing loving care for those with dementia and Alzheimer's.