

# American Pie by Don McLean

## VERSE 1 *Ad.Lib*

**G D Em**  
A long, long time ago,  
**Am C Em D**  
I can still remember how that music used to make me smile  
**G D Em**  
And I know if I had my chance,  
**Am C Em C D**  
That I could make those people dance and maybe they'd be happy for a while  
**Em Am Em Am**  
But February made me shiver, with every paper I'd deliver  
**C G Am C D**  
Bad news on the doorstep, I couldn't take one more step  
**G D Em Am D**  
I can't remember if I cried when I read about his widowed bride  
**G D Em**  
Something touched me deep inside  
**C D7 G C G**  
The day the music died

## CHORUS

**G C G D**  
So bye, bye Miss American Pie  
**G C G D**  
Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry  
**G C G D**  
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
**Em A7 Em D7**  
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

## VERSE 2

**G Am**  
Did you write the book of love  
**C Am Em D**  
And do you have faith in God above, if the bible tells you so?  
**G D Em**  
Now do you believe in rock and roll  
**Am C Em A7 D**  
And can music save your mortal soul and can you teach me how to dance real  
slow?  
**Em D Em D**  
Well I know that you're in love with him 'cuz I saw you dancin' in the gym  
**C G A7 C D7**  
You both kicked off your shoes, man I dig those rhythm and blues  
**G D Em Am C**  
I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck with a pink carnation and a pickup  
truck

G D Em C D7 G C G  
But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died,  
D7

I started singin'

**CHORUS**

G C G D  
Bye, bye Miss American Pie

G C G D  
Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry

G C G D  
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye

Em A7 Em D7  
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

**VERSE 3**

G Am  
Now for ten years we've been on our own,

C Am Em D  
and moss grows fat on a rolling stone but that's not how it used to be

G D Em Am C  
When the jester sang for the king and queen in a coat he borrowed from

Em A7 D  
James Dean in a voice that came from you and me

Em D Em D  
While the king was looking down, the jester stole his thorny crown

C G A7 C D7  
The courtroom was adjourned, no verdict was returned

G D Em Am C  
And while Lenin read a book on Marx, the quartet practiced in the park

G D Em C D7 G C G  
And we sang dirges in the dark the day the music died,

D7  
We were singin'

**CHORUS**

G C G D  
Bye, bye Miss American Pie

G C G D  
Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry

G C G D  
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye

Em A7 Em D7  
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

**VERSE 4**

G Am C Am  
Helter skelter in a summer swelter the birds flew off with a fallout

Em D  
shelter, eight miles high and fallin' fast

G D Em Am C  
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 sergeants played a marching  
Tune

We all got up to dance, but we never got the chance

'Cuz 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 singin'

### CHORUS

Bye, bye Miss American Pie

Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry

Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye

Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

### VERSE 5

And there we were all in one place,

a generation lost in space, with no time left to start again

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack Flash sat on a candle stick,

'cuz fire is the devil's only friend

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 singin'

### CHORUS

Bye, bye Miss American Pie

Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry

G C G D  
 Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
 Em A7 Em D7  
 Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

**VERSE 6** *Ad.Lib* (strum each chord once)

G D Em  
 I met a girl who sang the blues  
 Am C Em D  
 And I asked her for some happy news, but she just smiled and turned away  
 G D Em  
 I went down to the sacred store  
 Am C Em C  
 Where I'd heard the music years before, but the man there said the music  
 D  
 wouldn't play  
 Em Am Em Am  
 But in the streets the children screamed, the lovers cried and the poets  
 dreamed  
 C G Am C D  
 But not a word was spoken, the church bells all were broken  
 G D Em Am C D7  
 And the three men I admire most, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost  
 G D Em Am D7 G  
 They caught the last train for the coast the day the music died,  
 D7  
 And they were singin'

**FINAL CHORUS**

G C G D  
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie  
 G C G D  
 Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry  
 G C G D  
 Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
 Em A7  
 Singin' this will be the day that I die,  
 C D7 G C G  
 This will be the day that I die.

