

# American Pie

Don McLean

1. **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 knew 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 Am7 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

**G C G D**  
R: 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**  
And 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

**G Am**  
2. 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**  
Do you believe in rock and roll  
**Am7 C Em A7 D**  
Can music save your mortal soul and can you teach me how to dance real slow?  
**Em Am Em Am**  
Well I know that you're in love with him 'cuz I saw you dancin' in the gym  
**C G Am 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 bronckin' buck with a pink carnation and a pickup truck  
**G D Em C D7 G C G D**  
But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died, I started singin'

**G C G D**  
R: So bye, bye Miss American Pie...

**G Am**  
3. 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**

When the jester sang for the king and queen

**Am7 C Em A7 D**  
in a coat he borrowed from James Dean in a voice that came from you and me  
**Em\* D\* Em\* D\***  
Oh, and 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 Lennin read a book on Marx, the quartet practiced in the park  
**G D Em C D7 G C G D**  
And we sang dirges in the dark the day the music died, we were singin'

**G C G D**  
R: So bye, bye Miss American Pie...

**G Am**  
5. And there we were all in one place  
**C Am Em D**  
a generation lost in space, with no time left to start again  
**G D Em Am7 C**  
So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack Flash sat on a candlestick  
**Em A7 D**  
'cause fire is the devil's only friend  
**Em\* D\* Em\* D\***  
And as I watched him on the stage, my hands were clenched in fists of rage  
**C G A7 C D7**  
No angel born in Hell could break that Satan's spell  
**G D Em Am C**  
And as the flames climbed high into the night to light the sacrificial ri  
te  
**G D Em C D7 G C G D**  
I saw Satan laughing with delight the day the music died, he was singin

**G C G D**  
R: 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**  
And 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  
2x