

FEELGOOD SONGS

SONG 2 'WATERLOO SUNSET' A2+

The Kinks

THE SONG'S STORY

Watch the Biobox video. Choose the correct answer or answers to each question.

1. 1967 is famous for a new type of rock music called:

pop rock.

acid rock.

psychedelic rock.

2. That year, The Beatles released

one

two

three albums.

3. The cover of *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* features

Oscar Wilde.

Jimi Hendrix.

Marilyn Monroe.

4. The album *Strange Days* was recorded by

The Beatles.

Jimi Hendrix.

The Doors.

5. The album made by The Who refers to

the parody of a BBC radio programme.

the film *Good Morning England*.

Radio London, a pirate radio station.

6. The Monterey festival took place

in California.

in Florida.

in England.

7. At the end of his show, Jimi Hendrix

jumped into the crowd.

destroyed his guitar.

gave his guitar to a fan.

8. The Kinks' most popular song is:

"Waterloo Sunset".

"Something Else".

"Lazy Old Sun".

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE KINKS AND “WATERLOO SUNSET”.

A. Write a short presentation of the band. Put the verbs in the right form (preterite or past perfect).

1. British singer Ray Davies (be) _____ an art student for a year when he (form) _____ a rock band with his brother Dave in 1963.
2. The band (have) _____ various names such as The Ravens and The Bo Weevils before it (become) _____ The Kinks.
3. The Kinks (be) _____ one of the most influential bands of the ‘British Invasion’, a musical movement of rock ‘n’ roll which (spread) _____ in the USA in the 1960s.
4. After the American government (prohibit) _____ them from touring the USA for four years, Ray Davies (start) _____ to write more personal songs with overtly English musical influences.
5. When the band (record) _____ *Schoolboys of Disgrace* in 1976, they (already – make) _____ two rock operas.
6. Ray Davies (direct) _____ a musical film called *Return to Waterloo* about a commuter in the Thatcher era, 16 years after he (compose) _____ the song “Waterloo Sunset”.
7. The members of the band (receive) _____ induction into the Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame in 1990.
8. The band (break up) _____ in the mid-1990s after they (go) _____ through much infighting.

B. Interview a music specialist about Ray Davies.

Find the missing questions.

1. You:

Music specialist: As a member of the Kinks, Ray Davies played different roles. He was the lead singer, chief songwriter, and rhythm guitarist in the band.

2. You:

MS: His younger brother Dave founded the band with him. He played the lead guitar and would occasionally contribute to the songs.

3. You:

MS: He is known as the **'godfather of Britpop'**.

4. You:

MS: His sister gave him his first guitar **when he was 13**.

5. You:

MS: He comes from **London**. In fact, he still lives there, in Fortis Green which is not far away his birthplace.

6. You:

MS: I would say **"You Really Got Me"** and **"All Day and All of the Night"**. These songs were a massive success.

7. You:

MS: After the band had disbanded, he **started new projects**. For example, he wrote books – two fictional memoirs, and a collection of short stories. Each time his writing projects led to new songs or albums.

8. You:

MS: He raised money for New Orleans music education programmes **by releasing a benefit EP called 'Thanksgiving Day'**.

9. You:

MS: He was knighted by Prince Charles **in 2017**.

C. You have interviewed Ray Davies about the song 'Waterloo Sunset'. Use your notes to write the story of the song.

Album 'Something Else' - 1967 - last track
N°2 in British singles charts
Poetic song - pay tribute to London
Waterloo bridge = 'significant place in my life'
When a child - bad injury - St Thomas' Hospital - look over river
Walk with girlfriend - River Thames
Art student - every day - Waterloo Station
Main characters = sister + boyfriend

LISTEN TO THE SONG

Listen to the song "Waterloo Sunset" online and find out about the lyrics.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_MqfF0WBsU

Answer the following questions about the song:

- 1. Find out** where and when the scene is set.
- 2. List** the different people the song is about. Compare the narrator/singer's attitude/actions to the people he refers to.
- 3. Comment on** the way the city is presented in the song.

4. Give your opinion about the feelings expressed in the song. Justify your choices.

+ Don't forget to comment on the type of music!

The song sounds

melancholic / nostalgic optimistic romantic powerful :

5. Share your opinion about the song's representation of London in a comment posted on a music website.

LONDON

Put the adjectives in the superlative forms and find out about two emblematic places in London.

Waterloo Station

- Waterloo Station, which is located at the centre of London, is one of the city's (famous) Underground and train stops.
- It is also the city's (large) station.
- This iconic station is (well-known) for being named after the 1815 Battle of Waterloo.
- Every year about 100 million passengers cross the platforms of the station which is considered to be the city's (busy) communication hub.
- One of its (notable) monuments is the Victory Arch, a tribute to the employees who fell during the two World Wars.



The Thames

- The Thames is the (long) _____ river entirely in England.
- It flows by some of the (iconic) _____ monuments in London such as the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, and the Tower of London.
- Its (ancient) _____ bridge was built by the Romans.
- Among the many birds feeding off the river, the mute swans are the (numerous) _____.
- Some of the (early) _____ references to the Thames appeared in texts written by Julius Caesar.
- One of the Sex Pistols' (memorable) _____ concerts took place on the river in 1977 on the Queen Elizabeth Riverboat.
- The river appears in some of the (acclaimed) _____ films such as Harry Potter, James Bond, and Indiana Jones.

