

I've __ Everywhere, Man

Objective: To write a song or poem, about something you've done many, many times in your life. This assignment is based on using the Geoffrey Mack song, "I've Been Everywhere, Man" made famous by Johnny Cash as your guide.

Preparation

Read the attached song, "I've Been Everywhere, Man" or listen to Johnny Cash sing it. Read the attached samples.

Pre-Writing

1. Make a list of the activities you've done many, many times. Don't hold back. For example, many people have eaten, walked, run, slept, watched TV, cleaned, talked on the phone, texted, danced, played a sport or game, read, cooked, skated, prayed, stood in line or played cards many times. Maybe you've fought, cheered, rode a bike, waited in line, shopped in many places.
2. Choose one activity you've done many times in many places. This is the one you'll write about.
3. Smile, this is meant to be fun.
4. Now, list all the places you've done that activity. And add any details that come to mind.

Writing Assignment

Write your version of "I've Been Everywhere, Man." Keep in mind there needs to be a refrain (also known as a chorus or an echo). That refrain will be the second stanza, fourth stanza, sixth stanza and every even numbered stanza throughout your piece. The final stanza of your song/poem will also be the refrain. Think in terms of six stanzas or more.

Stanzas are the building blocks of formal poetry. They are like paragraphs in stories. Stanzas usually have the same number of lines each time they appear.

Alternatives

Do the same exercise with other songs, especially those you love.

Original song lyrics and student writing samples on following pages.

“I’ve Been Everywhere”

Songwriter: Geoff Mack

I was toting my pack along the long dusty Winnemucca road
When along came a semi with a high canvas covered load
If your goin' to Winnemucca, Mack with me you can ride
And so I climbed into the cab and then I settled down inside
He asked me if I'd seen a road with so much dust and sand
And I said, "Listen! I've traveled every road in this here land!"

I've been everywhere, man
I've been everywhere, man
Crossed the deserts bare, man
I've breathed the mountain air, man
Travel, I've had my share, man
I've been everywhere

I've been to Reno, Chicago, Fargo
Minnesota, Buffalo, Toronto, Winslow
Sarasota, Wichita, Tulsa, Ottawa
Oklahoma, Tampa, Panama
Mattawa, La Paloma, Bangor
Baltimore, Salvador, Amarillo
Tocapillo, Barranquilla, and Padilla, I'm a Killer

I've been everywhere, man
I've been everywhere, man
Crossed the deserts bare, man
I've breathed the mountain air, man
Travel, I've had my share, man
I've been everywhere

I've been to Boston, Charleston, Dayton
Louisiana, Washington, Houston
Kingston, Texarkana, Monterey, Ferriday
Santa Fe, Tallapoosa, Glen Rock
Black Rock, Little Rock, Oskaloosa
Tennessee to Hennessey, Chicopee, Spirit Lake
Grand Lake, Devil's Lake, Crater Lake, for Pete's Sake

I've been everywhere, man
I've been everywhere, man
Crossed the deserts bare, man

I've breathed the mountain air, man
Travel, I've had my share, man
I've been everywhere

I've been to Louisville, Nashville
Knoxville, Ombabika, Shefferville
Jacksonville, Waterville, Costa Rica
Pittsfield, Springfield, Bakersfield
Shreveport, Hackensack, Cadallic
Fond do Lac, Davenport, Idaho, Jellico
Argentina, Diamantina, Pasadena
Catalina, see what I mean

I've been everywhere, man
I've been everywhere, man
Crossed the deserts bare, man
I've breathed the mountain air, man
Travel, I've had my share, man
I've been everywhere

I've been to Pittsburgh, Parkersburg, Gravellburg
Colorado, Ellensburg, Rexburg, Vicksburg
El Dorado, Larimore, Atmore, Haverstraw
Chattanika, Shasta, Nebraska, Alaska
Opelika, Baraboo, Waterloo, Kalamazoo
Kansas City, Sioux City, Cedar City
Dodge City, what a pity

I've been everywhere, man
I've been everywhere, man
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I've breathed the mountain air, man
Travel, I've had my share, man
I've been everywhere