

ESCUELA
OFICIAL
DE
IDIOMAS
OVIEDO

CENTRO DE AUTOAPRENDIZAJE

IDIOMA: INGLÉS

PRÁCTICA: COMPRENSIÓN ORAL

NIVEL: NIVEL AVANZADO

MATERIAL: CINTA-CD / CUESTIONARIO / SOLUCIONES

TEMA: STORY SONG, *WOULD FOR PAST HABITS*



Bruce Springsteen

"The Boss" hit the music industry with the release of his first album *Greetings From Asbury Park, N.J.*, in 1973. His first albums received critical claim with comparisons to Bob Dylan, but did not sell well with the fans. Bruce Springsteen's career had begun.

Springsteen was born in Freehold, New Jersey, on September 23, 1949. He grew up in a "normal middle class family" and first started playing around with the guitar in High School. After graduating from High School he moved to New York to try and break into the Folk Music scene. After getting nowhere on this front he returned to, be it reluctantly, to Asbury Park, N.J. and hooked up with a number of bands. With brief stints with such bands as *Rogues* and *Dr. Zoom and the Sonic Boom*, Springsteen found himself a place with the *E-Street Band*, and with them he remained until 1989. Though, this wouldn't be the last time they would play together.

The 1973 albums marked the beginning of Springsteen's career and since then, "The Boss" has sold tens of millions of albums and won over legions of loyal fans worldwide in his 30 plus years as a "rock and roll legend". His break came after a tour with the band *Chicago*. Springsteen captivated the audiences in these live shows, and seeing an opportunity, the singer-songwriter came up with what is called his breakthrough effort *Born to Run* in 1974. The album received an abundant of praise leading Springsteen to be dubbed the "Savior of Rock & Roll". Magazine's and Newspaper's were swarming to get him to appear in their publications.

In 1978 album *Darkness on the Edge of Town* was released. Following this the album *The River*, in 1980, quickly went platinum in the United States and established Springsteen as an international star.

"The Boss's" most famous release *Born in the U.S.A* came out in 1984. It sold 20 million copies and was followed by a massive two year long world wide tour. The new working class image of *Born in the U.S.A.* made Springsteen an international superstar. "The Boss" was born!

1987's *Tunnel of Love* was released during a time when Springsteen was facing marital problems. He began singing of lost love, emotional turmoil, and other adult concerns. He set off after this for one more tour with the *E-Street Band* and then in 1989 they parted ways. Three years later he released two albums *Human Touch* and *Lucky Town*.

Springsteen released the song *Streets of Philadelphia* for the movie "Philadelphia" which won him a Grammy award and an Oscar for "Best Song". With his career in full-comeback, he released a *Greatest Hits* album which seen him re-unit with the *E-Street Band* for some new tracks. Next came 1995's *The Ghost of Tom Joad*, which was a return for Springsteen to the folk music style of his early career, followed by some other releases in the past few years

After 30 years he is still going strong. We can only wait and see what will be next.

The River 1980

"A breakthrough song for me. One of the first of my story songs"

Bruce Springsteen

The River tells the story of a young man.

The lines in *italics* are in the correct place, but within each paragraph the order of the rest of the lines has been changed. Read the lyrics of the song before listening to it and try to reconstruct the story. Then listen and check.

I come from down in the valley

When she was just seventeen

Where mister when you're young

They bring you up to do like your daddy done

Me and Mary we met in high school

We'd ride out of that valley down to where the fields were green

*We'd go down to the river
And into the river we'd dive
Oh down to the river we'd ride*

Then I got Mary pregnant

We went down to the courthouse
No wedding day smiles no walk down the aisle
And for my nineteenth birthday I got a union card and a wedding coat
And man that was all she wrote
And the judge put it all to rest
No flowers, no wedding dress

*That night we went down to the river
And into the river we'd dive
Oh down to the river we did ride*

I got a job working construction for the Johnstown Company

Now all them things that seemed so important
But lately there ain't been much work on account of the economy
Now I just act like I don't remember
Well mister they vanished right into the air
Mary acts like she don't care

But I remember us riding in my brother's car

At night on them banks I'd lie awake
Her body tan and wet down at the reservoir
And pull her close just to feel each breath she'd take
Now those memories come back to haunt me
Is a dream a lie if it don't come true
They haunt me like a curse
Or is it something worse

*That sends me down to the river
Though I know the river is dry
That sends me down to the river tonight
Down to the river
My baby and I
Oh down to the river we ride*



KEY**The River**

I come from down in the valley
Where mister when you're young
They bring you up to do like your daddy done
Me and Mary we met in high school
when she was just seventeen
We'd ride out of that valley down to where the fields were green

We'd go down to the river
And into the river we'd dive
Oh down to the river we'd ride

Then I got Mary pregnant
And man that was all she wrote
And for my nineteenth birthday I got a union card and a wedding coat
We went down to the courthouse
and the judge put it all to rest
No wedding day smiles no walk down the aisle
No flowers no wedding dress

That night we went down to the river
And into the river we'd dive
Oh down to the river we did ride

I got a job working construction for the Johnstown Company
But lately there ain't been much work on account of the economy
Now all them things that seemed so important
Well mister they vanished right into the air
Now I just act like I don't remember
Mary acts like she don't care

But I remember us riding in my brother's car
Her body tan and wet down at the reservoir
At night on them banks I'd lie awake
And pull her close just to feel each breath she'd take
Now those memories come back to haunt me
They haunt me like a curse
Is a dream a lie if it don't come true
Or is it something worse

That sends me down to the river
Though I know the river is dry
That sends me down to the river tonight
Down to the river
My baby and I
Oh down to the river we ride