

## **Lyndon Johnson Told the Nation By Tom Paxton**

I got a letter from L. B. J  
It said this is your lucky day  
It's time to put your khaki trousers on  
Though it may seem very queer  
We've got no jobs to give you here  
So we are sending you to Vietnam

### ***Chorus***

Lyndon Johnson told the nation  
"Have no fear of escalation  
I am trying everyone to please  
Though it isn't really war  
We're sending fifty thousand more  
To help save Vietnam from Vietnamese."

I jumped off the old troop ship  
And sank in mud up to my hips  
I cussed until the captain called me down  
Never mind how hard it's raining  
Think of all the ground we're gaining  
Just don't take one step outside of town

### ***Chorus***

Every night the local gentry  
Sneak out past the sleep sentry  
They go to join the old VC  
In their nightly little dramas  
They put on their black pajamas  
And come lobbing mortar shells at me

### ***Chorus***

We go round in helicopters  
Like a bunch of big grasshoppers  
Searching for the Viet Cong in vain  
They left a note that they had gone  
They had to get down to Saigon  
Their government positions to maintain

### ***Chorus***

Well here I sit in this rice paddy  
Wondering about Big Daddy  
And I know that Lyndon loves me so  
Yet how sadly I remember  
Way back yonder in November  
When he said I'd never have to go

### ***Chorus***

## **Okie From Muskogee** **By Merle Haggard**

We don't smoke marijuana in  
Muskogee;  
We don't take no trips on LSD  
We don't burn our draft cards down on  
Main Street;  
Cause we like livin' right, and bein' free.

We don't make a party out of lovin';  
But we like holdin' hands and pitchin'  
woo;  
We don't let our hair grow long and  
shaggy,  
Like the hippies out in San Francisco  
do.

And I'm proud to be an Okie from  
Muskogee,  
A place where even squares can have a  
ball  
We still wave Old Glory down at the  
courthouse,  
And white lightnin's still the biggest thrill  
of all

Leather boots are still in style for manly  
footwear;  
Beads and Roman sandals won't be  
seen.  
Football's still the roughest thing on  
campus,  
And the kids here still respect the  
college dean.

And I'm proud to be an Okie from  
Muskogee,  
A place where even squares can have a  
ball.  
We still wave Old Glory down at the  
courthouse,  
And white lightnin's still the biggest thrill  
of all.

We still wave Old Glory down at the  
courthouse,  
In Muskogee, Oklahoma, USA.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_

### Vietnam War Protest Songs

**Directions:** Pick one of the following songs to review and analyze. **Identify at least 3 historic references** in the song of your choice then answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

Bob Dylan, "Blowin' in the Wind" (1963)

Phil Ochs, "What Are You Fighting For" (1963)

Pete Seeger, "Bring 'em Home" (1966)

Arlo Guthrie, "Alice's Restaurant Massacree" (1967)

Nina Simone, "Blacklash Blues" (1967)

Joan Baez, "Saigon Bride" (1967)

Country Joe & the Fish, "Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die" (1967)

Pete Seeger, "Waist Deep in the Big Muddy" (1967)

Richie Havens, "Handsome Johnny" (1967)

John Lennon, "Give Peace a Chance" (1969)

Jimmy Cliff, "Vietnam" (1970)

Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young, "Ohio" (1970)

Marvin Gaye, "What's Going On" (1971)

John Lennon, "Imagine" (1971)

1. What is the mood of your song? What words helped you identify the mood?
2. What message was the songwriter trying to convey? How do you know?
3. List at least one (1) question you have after listening / reading your poem.