

**Extra Credit Opportunity
History 110
(developed by Professor Jonathan Bean)**

The following lyrics from Billy Joel's song "We Didn't Start the Fire" include many historical references from the second half of the 20th century. To earn **up to ten points** (added to your final grade), please choose five historical topics mentioned within these lyrics and write an identification of each (one to two paragraphs). Choose from the terms that are in **bold**. If choosing a foreign ID, make sure you tie its historical significance to the United States. Start with your textbook and then find print or electronic sources. For electronic sources, see Morris Library's website: "Resources About My Subject"-- "History." When searching on-line, it sometimes helps to put the search phrase in quotes ("Catcher in the Rye"). An excellent print source with many of these items: *American Decades: Reserve* (1st floor Morris Library) E169.12 .A419 1994. **Provide complete citations to the articles or encyclopedia articles you use.**

Note: DO NOT use the crib sheet guides to the song that are available on the Internet. You will receive no credit for simply copying that material. Ideally, I want you to use the library and/or trustworthy on-line reference works (e.g., Britannica.com, Wikipedia, etc.).

Here are the lyrics:

"We Didn't Start The Fire"

1940s:

Harry Truman, Doris Day, Red China, Johnny Ray
South Pacific, **Walter Winchell**, **Joe DiMaggio**

1950s:

Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon, **Studebaker**, **Television**
North Korea, South Korea, **Marilyn Monroe**
Rosenbergs, H Bomb, **Sugar Ray**, Panmunjom
Brando, The King And I, and *The Catcher In The Rye*
Eisenhower, **Vaccine** [polio vaccine], England's got a new queen
Marciano, Liberace, Santayana goodbye

We didn't start the fire
It was always burning
Since the world's been turning
We didn't start the fire
No we didn't light it
But we tried to fight it

Joseph Stalin, Malenkov, Nasser and Prokofiev
Rockefeller, **Campanella**, Communist Bloc
Roy Cohn, Juan Peron, Toscanini, **Dancron**

Dien Bien Phu Falls, Rock Around the Clock
Einstein, **James Dean**, Brooklyn's got a winning team
Davy Crockett, Peter Pan, Elvis Presley, Disneyland
Bardot, Budapest, Alabama, Khrushchev
Princess Grace, **Peyton Place**, Trouble in the Suez
We didn't start the fire. . .
Little Rock, Pasternak, Mickey Mantle, **Kerouac**
Sputnik, Chou En-Lai, Bridge On The River Kwai
Lebanon, Charles de Gaulle, California baseball
Starkwether, Homicide, **Children of Thalidomide**
Buddy Holly, Ben Hur, Space Monkey, Mafia
Hula Hoops, Castro, **Edsel is a no-go**

1960s:

U2, Syngman Rhee, **payola** and Kennedy
Chubby Checker, "**Psycho**," Belgians in the Congo

We didn't start the fire. . .

Hemingway, Eichmann, Stranger in a Strange Land
Dylan, Berlin, **Bay of Pigs invasion**
Lawrence of Arabia, British Beatlemania
Ole Miss, John Glenn, Liston beats Patterson
Pope Paul, **Malcolm X**, British Politician sex
J.F.K. blown away, what else do I have to say
We didn't start the fire. . .

1960s-1970s:

Birth control, Ho Chi Minh, Richard Nixon back again
Moonshot, **Woodstock**, Watergate, **punk rock**
Begin, Reagan, Palestine, **Terror on the airline**
Ayatollah's in Iran, Russians in Afghanistan

1980s:

Wheel of Fortune, **Sally Ride**, **heavy metal**, suicide
Foreign debts, homeless Vets, AIDS, Crack, **Bernie Goetz**
Hypodermics on the shores, China's under martial law
Rock and Roller cola wars, I can't take it anymore

We didn't start the fire....