It was 1989 and Billy Joel said "Okay, what's happened in my life?" He wrote down the year 1949. “Okay, Harry Truman was president. Popular singer of the day- Doris Day. China went Communist. Another popular singer,-Johnnie Ray. Big Broadway show,-South Pacific. Journalist-Walter Winchell. Athlete,- Joe DiMaggio. Then I went on to 1950.” Having sold in excess of 100 million records, Billy Joel is one of the most popular and honored musicians of the last 30 + years. Take a look at his catalog and you’ll find you know many of his songs already.

In 1989 he wrote a popular song entitled “We Didn’t Start the Fire” which captures the people, places, events and things from 1949-1989. Over the next few days not only will you learn about this song’s elements, but you also will be filling in the lyrical gap he left from 1993-2011!

**TASKS:**

1. Research and Explain **ONE year of ASSIGNED verses** from Billy Joel’s song through pictures and BRIEF descriptions on ONE PowerPoint slide (see sample). Know how to sing your tune!!
2. Research and gather information on your assigned year, then **Write NEW ones for assigned year(s) AND explain what they mean:** Must be typed in same format, going to same tune as ones you explained with explanations written out below. (see sample) Know how to say your words to the same tune! **Send electronically** to Mrs. Latin so she can put your lyrics into the entire classes for a completed song!
3. Perform old and new lyrics as a class

**SAMPLE PPT slide**

### Sample new lyrics 1993

Bill Clinton, Seinfeld, Oprah Winfrey, FMLA Beavis/Butthead, Sandlot, Michael Jackson

(Goes to same melody as words replaced)

**Explanation for new words:**
- Bill Clinton- USA President elected
- Seinfeld- Popular TV. sitcom
- Oprah Winfrey- AA host of Daytime talk show
- FMLA- Family Medical Leave Act passed
- Beavis and Butthead: Popular/controversial cartoon for older kids/adults
- Sandlot- popular movie
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