

# Elvis Presley



Introduction to Computers

Your Name

Your Period Number

Presented to "Your teacher's name"

February 25, 2003

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# Elvis Presley

Elvis Aaron Presley, 8 January 1935, Tupelo, Mississippi, USA, d. 16 August 1977, Memphis, Tennessee. The most celebrated popular music star of his generation and, for many, the very symbol of rock 'n' roll. Elvis Presley's life and career have become part of rock legend and for many is "The Rock Legend Star".



The elder of twins, his younger brother, Jesse Garon, was stillborn, a tragedy that partly contributed to his mother dominating his childhood and teenage years.

Presley's first significant step towards a musical career took place at the age of eight when he won \$5 in a local song contest. His earliest musical influence came from attending the Pentecostal Church and listening to the psalms and gospel songs. He also had a strong grounding in country and blues and it was the combination of these different styles that was to provide his unique musical identity. By the age of 13, Presley had moved with his family to Memphis, and during his later school years began cultivating an outsider image, with long hair, spidery sideburns and ostentatious clothes. After leaving school he took a job as a truck driver, a role in keeping with his unconventional appearance. In spite of his rebel posturing, Presley remained very polite to his elders and was devoted to his mother. It was on 10 January 1956, a mere two days after his 21st birthday, that Presley entered RCA's studios in Nashville to record his first tracks for a major label. Since hitting number 2 in the UK lists with 'Heartbreak Hotel', Presley had been

guaranteed European success and his profile was increased through a regular series of releases as RCA took advantage of their back catalogue.

In the beginning of the **Beatles'** rise to fame and the beat boom explosion, Presley seemed a out of place. Nevertheless, in spite of the dated nature of many of his recordings, he could still invest power and emotion into classic songs. During the early 70s Presley continued his live performances, but soon fell victim to the same artistic problems that had troubled his career.

The backdrop to Presley's final years was a sordid slump into drug dependency, reinforced by the pervasive unreality of a pampered lifestyle in his fantasy home, Grace Land. He collapsed onstage on a couple of occasions and finally on 16 August 1977 his tired body expired. The official cause of death was a heart attack, undoubtedly brought on by barbiturate usage over a long period. In the weeks following his demise, his record sales predictably rocketed and 'Way Down' proved a fittingly final UK number 1.

To this day, Elvis Presley remain number one, King of Rock "n' Roll. His smooth, intense music with a truly identifiable beat, and his body movements lead to a whole new generation and type of music. The music industry and the world were in for a musical revolution as none had ever existed before.

Elvis Presley has left his indelible mark on the music and social world. He truly transformed not only a genre, but also the way in which American Society idealizes rock stars and people of fame.



# Songs

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Blue Suede Shoes

Can't Help Falling in Love

Heartbreak Hotel

Don't be Cruel

GI Blues

Blue Moon

Hound Dog

Love Me Tender

Return to Sender

Treat me Nice

# Jailhouse Rock

The warden threw a party in the county jail.  
The prison band was there and they began to wail.  
The band was jumpin' and the joint began to swing.  
You should've heard those knocked out jailbirds sing.  
Let's rock, everybody, let's rock.  
Everybody in the whole cell block was a dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock.

Spider Murphy played the tenor saxophone,  
Little Joe was blowin' on the slide trombone.  
The drummer boy from Illinois went crash, boom, bang,  
the whole rhythm section was the Purple Gang.  
Let's rock, everybody, let's rock.  
Everybody in the whole cell block was a dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock.

Number forty-seven said to number three:  
You're the cutest jailbird I ever did see.  
I sure would be delighted with your company,  
come on and do the Jailhouse Rock with me.  
Let's rock, everybody, let's rock.  
Everybody in the whole cell block was a dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock.

The sad sack was a sittin' on a block of stone  
way over in the corner weepin' all alone.  
The warden said, "Hey, buddy, don't you be no square.  
If you can't find a partner use a wooden chair."  
Let's rock, everybody, let's rock.  
Everybody in the whole cell block was a dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock.

Shifty Henry said to Bugs, "For Heaven's sake,  
no one's lookin', now's our chance to make a break."  
Bugsy turned to Shifty and he said, "Nix nix,  
I wanna stick around a while and get my kicks."  
Let's rock, everybody, let's rock.  
Everybody in the whole cell block was a dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock.

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Mary Sue Ellen  
12345 Camino Ruiz  
San Diego, CA 92164

February 25, 2003

Elvis Presley  
16584 Graceland Lane  
Memphis, TN 20157

Dear Elvis Presley:

My name is Mary Sue Ellen; I am 14 years old. I am also a freshman at Poway High School. The class was assigned a project on a famous singer of the 50's and 60's. My partner, Beth, and I chose you. You have inspired many people and sung many meaningful songs. You have many devoted fans, who look up to you.

My favorite songs that you sing are:

- Blue Suede Shoes
- Heartbreak Hotel
- Blue Moon
- Hound Dog
- Return to Sender

I would like to ask, what encouraged you to become a singer? What was it that really made you want that career?

Sincerely,

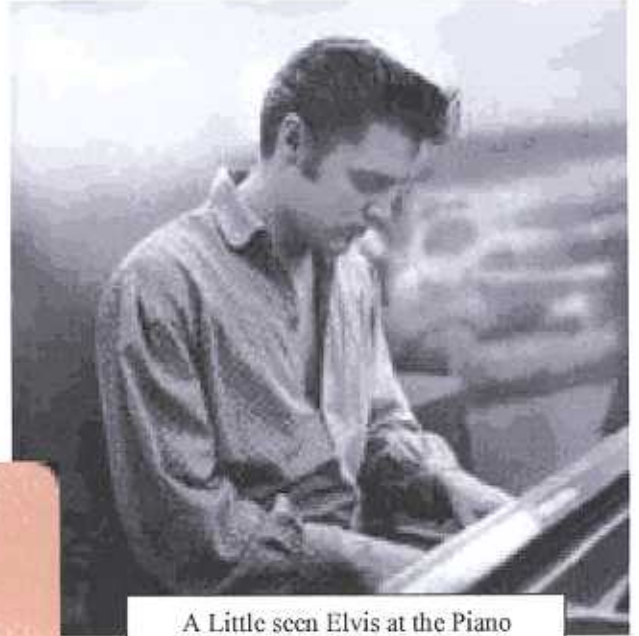
Mary Sue Ellen  
Student at Poway High School

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# Gallery



Collage of his life



A Little seen Elvis at the Piano



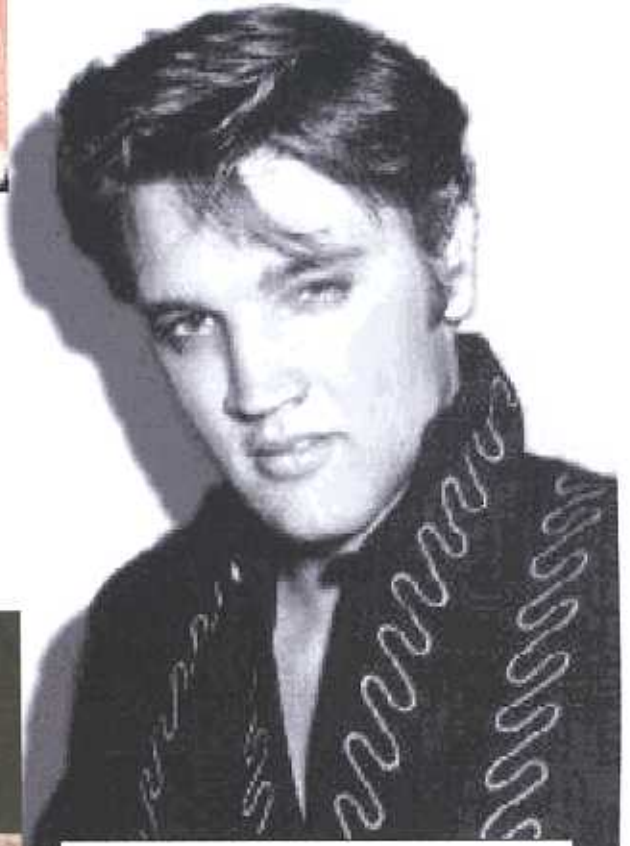
Elvis in his First Motion Picture



Elvis the Early Years



Nearing the end of his career



Elvis in his prime



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