



# HOME I'LL NEVER BE



I left **New York** in 1949  
To go across the country without a bad blame dime  
**Montana** in the cold cold fall  
Found my father in the gambling hall  
Father, Father where you been?  
I've been out in the world and I'm only ten  
Father, Father where you been?  
I've been out in the world and I'm only ten

Don't worry about me if I should die of pleurisy

Across to **Mississippi**, across to **Tennessee**  
Across the **Niagara**, home I'll never be  
Home in ol' **Medora**, home in Ol' **Truckee**  
**Apalachicola**, home I'll never be

Better or for worse, thick and thin  
Like being married to the Little poor man  
God he loves me (God he loves me)  
Just like I love him (just like I love him)  
I want you to do (I want you to do)  
Just the same for him (just the same for him, yeah)

Well the worms eat away but don't worry watch the wind  
So I left **Montana** on an old freight train (on an old freight train)  
The night my father died in the cold cold rain (in the cold cold rain)

Road to **Opelousas**, road to **Wounded Knee**  
Road to **Ogallala** home I'll never be  
Road to **Oklahoma**, road to **El Cahon**  
Road to **Tahachapi**, road to **San Antone** [*San Antonio*]

Home I'll never be, home I'll never be  
Home I'll never be, home I'll never be



Use your Google Maps app to find all the locations mentioned in the song.  
Then create your own "On the Road" experience!



Although life was good for most people during the fifties, not everyone was content. Some people, particularly American writers and artists, participated in what became known as the Beat Movement. Concentrated mostly in Greenwich Village in New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, the Beats were rebellious at heart and had a contempt for conformity. Members of the Beat generation questioned the values of their elders, mainly through their words. They would gather at coffee houses and recite original poems about their social disillusionment. Their literature celebrated freedom and spontaneity and was influenced by jazz, drugs, and Asian religions. At the forefront of this movement was Jack Kerouac who provided the voice for the Beat Generation.

Jean Louis Kerouac, later known simply as Jack Kerouac, was born on March 12, 1922, in Lowell, Massachusetts. After high school he studied briefly at Columbia University and served for a while in the merchant marines. Following those experiences he worked at odd jobs and traveled extensively throughout the United States. It was his travels and his accounts of his adventures that would bring him fame.

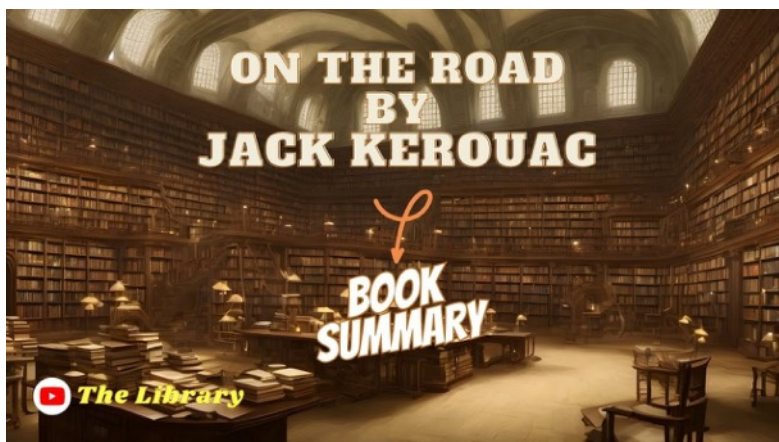
Jack wrote of his journeys in a highly personal style, one that employed spontaneous and unconventional prose. In his best-known novel, *On the Road*, he described his life of freedom from conventional middle-class ties and values. Through his characters Kerouac explored the enjoyment of nature and the senses and the freedom from responsibility. Although they have no particular place to go, the characters travel for the adventure and the pleasure of change.

Kerouac's writing contributed to his position as the leading spokesperson of the Beat Generation, and he became the epitome of the Beat lifestyle. Following his success with *On the Road*, Kerouac wrote a series of similarly structured novels. His last book, *Big Sur*, was written in 1962. Jack Kerouac died on October 21, 1969, in St. Petersburg, Florida.



**Jack Kerouac**

## LISTENING ACTIVITY



1. Who are the “Beat Writers”?
2. How is the novel structured?
3. Who do Sal and Dean encounter along their journeys?
4. What ideas do they reject?
5. What beauties does the novel celebrate?
6. In what are Sal and Dean similar, and how are they different?
7. What has the novel been criticized for?

8. Do you think these two books and their stories can somehow be compared?

9. What are their main characters in search of?

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## SPEAKING ACTIVITY

“My fault, my failure, is not in the passions I have, but in my lack of control of them.”  
— **Jack Kerouac**

“The best teacher is experience and not through someone's distorted point of view”  
— **Jack Kerouac**

“I was surprised, as always, by how easy the act of leaving was, and how good it felt. The world was suddenly rich with possibility.”  
— **Jack Kerouac**

“Don't use the phone. People are never ready to answer it. Use poetry.”  
— **Jack Kerouac**

“Boys and girls in America have such a sad time together; sophistication demands that they submit to sex immediately without proper preliminary talk. Not courting talk — real straight talk about souls, for life is holy and every moment is precious.”  
— **Jack Kerouac**

“Will you love me in December as you do in May?”  
— **Jack Kerouac**

“Because in the end, you won’t remember the time you spent working in the office or mowing your lawn. Climb that goddamn mountain.”  
— Jack Kerouac

“I had nothing to offer anybody except my own confusion.”  
— Jack Kerouac

“If he (Jack Kerouac) hadn’t written *On The Road*, The Doors never would have existed.” Ray Manzarek

- What do you think “the Beats” gave Jim Morrison and the Doors?

- Can Morrison and Kerouac somehow be compared?

## RIDERS ON THE STORM

*Who wrote these verses?*

Riders on the storm  
Riders on the storm  
Into this \_\_\_\_\_, we're born  
Into this \_\_\_\_\_, we're thrown  
Like a dog without a \_\_\_\_\_  
An actor out on loan

Riders on the storm  
There's a \_\_\_\_\_ on the road  
His brain is squirmin' like a toad  
Take a long \_\_\_\_\_  
Let your \_\_\_\_\_ play  
If you give this man a ride  
Sweet \_\_\_\_\_ will die  
Killer on the road, yeah

Girl, you gotta love your man  
Girl, you gotta love your man  
Take him by the \_\_\_\_\_  
Make him \_\_\_\_\_  
The world on you depends  
Our \_\_\_\_\_ will never end  
Gotta love your man, yeah

Riders on the storm ...

Good-bye America  
I loved you!  
Money from home  
Good luck  
Stay out of trouble

