

IES LA ARBOLEDA

BED BY THE WINDOW (TONY MELENDEZ)

Two old friends share a room
In a home for the elderly
Confined to their beds
Their bodies have given way
Old Joel by the window
Watch the days goes by
Bill lives to hear the tale about the world outside



[Chorus:]

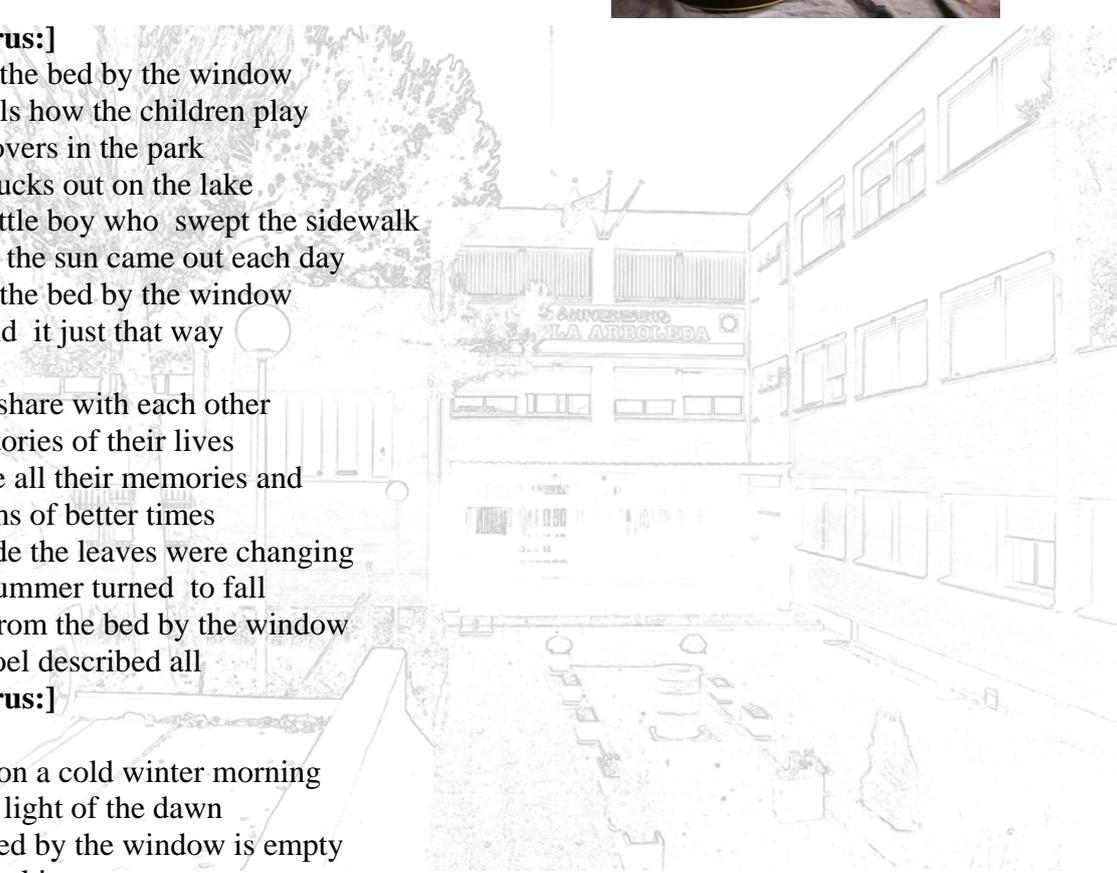
From the bed by the window
He tells how the children play
The lovers in the park
The ducks out on the lake
The little boy who swept the sidewalk
When the sun came out each day
From the bed by the window
He told it just that way

They share with each other
The stories of their lives
Relive all their memories and
Dreams of better times
Outside the leaves were changing
The summer turned to fall
And from the bed by the window
Old Joel described all

[Chorus:]

Then on a cold winter morning
In the light of the dawn
The bed by the window is empty
Old Joel is gone
And then they move Bill to the window
He couldn't hold back the tears
When he finally saw the view outside after all those years
From the bed by the window
He couldn't see out at all
There was nothing out that window
But an old brick wall

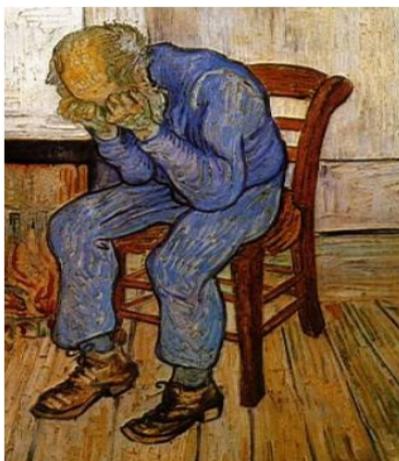
Now a new man shares that room in the home for the elderly
Confined to his bed
His body has given way
Bill lies by the window
As the days go by



And his new friend lives to hear the tale about the world outside
(Chorus)

ACTIVITIES

1.- pre- listening. Activity.



- 1.- What do these picture show?
- 2.- What do they make you think or feel?
- 3.- Compare them with the picture above. Do they have anything in common?
- 4.- These pictures can give you a hint or clue of what the song is about. Make a guess.

- 2.- Listen to the song and translate it.
- 3.- Write a summary .
- 4.- What is the message (or messages) of the song?.
- 5.- What are the seasons mentioned in the song? Why does the singer talk about them?
- 6.- The word **by** appears in the song several times. What does it mean in each case?. What other meanings or uses does **By** have? Give examples.

7.- OLD AGE.- SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION: Make small groups and answer the questions below for about 15 minutes. Make sure you all participate. Before starting your discussion you might need to know some words related to Old age. For this purpose we have prepared some vocab for you (see number 6)

- 1.- What are the main problems or challenges old people must face?
- 2.- What can be done to solve these problems?
- 3.- Is the present society prepared to assist the increasing number of old people?
- 4.- What is the role (or roles) elderlies play in society?
- 5.- Have your ever felt envious of the elderlies? Justify your answer.
- 6.- Put yourself in a senior citizen's feet for a second. Imagine you're granted three wishes. Which ones would you choose?.
- 7.- How are old people regarded by youth and middle-aged people?
- 8.- Describe an old person you really admire. Give reasons why you've selected him/her.
- 9.- Elderlies can count themselves lucky that.....
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8.- WORDS AND PHRASES RELATED TO OLD AGE.-

elderly = anciano (N).- **old** = viejo, anciano (ADJ)

old man = viejo, anciano ; **old lady** = vieja, señora mayor, anciana

old age = vejez

as old as the hills = más viejo que Matusalén (lit. tan viejo como las montañas)

A young idler, an old beggar (If you don't work, you won't have any money when you're old)

1. old and wise
2. over the hill
3. past it
4. pushing ninety
5. in her nineties
6. a pensioner / OAP / senior citizen
7. getting a bit long in the tooth
8. in my twilight years / second childhood
9. losing her marbles / going senile
- 10.- ailment.
- 11.- Look back on (sth)...

In phrase 1, the words 'old' and 'wise' have often been associated. This is a common collocation.

Phrase 2 and 3 mean that the person is too old to do a certain job or task.

In phrase 4, the person is nearly ninety years old.

In phrase 5, the person is over ninety but less than one hundred years old.

Phrases 6 mean that the person has retired and is receiving a state pension. In the UK this happens at 65.

Phrase 7 was originally used to describe old horses and means that the person is too old for their current (work) position.

Phrases 8 are more positive ways to refer to old age and retirement.

Phrases 9 are saying that a person is losing their understanding of the world because of old age

9.- A POEM ABOUT AGE

Age Is A Quality Of Mind

If you left your dreams behind,
 If hope is lost. If you no longer look ahead,
 If your ambitious fires are dead –
 Then you are old.
 But if from life you take the best
 And if in life you keep the jest,
 If love you hold –
 No matter how the years go by,
 No matter how the birthdays fly,
 You're not old.