

Back to the Future, Chapter 8: Farewell

Vocabulary

Without using the textbook, look at the following lines with a partner. Can you remember who said them? If you can't remember, try to guess. What were they talking about?

- a) **Way down** in Louisiana, down in New Orleans.... (p.134)
- b) **Way back up** in the woods among the evergreens.... (p. 134)
- c) There stood a **log cabin** made of earth and wood.... (p. 134)
- d) Hey, George, I heard you **laid out** Biff. (p. 134)
- e) I heard you laid out Biff. **Nice going.** (p. 134)
- f) George, did you ever think of **running for** class president? (p. 134)
- g) **I had a feeling** about you two. (p. 136)
- h) ...and one of them when he's eight years old accidentally **sets fire** to the living room rug... (p. 136)
- i)accidentally sets fire to the living room rug...**go easy on him.** (p. 136)

Complete the following sentences with the underlined words or phrases from above. Change the form of the words, or replace portions so that they work well (do → did, me → him, etc.)

1. For mountain vacations, it is popular to rent a _____ where a whole family can stay.
2. It was a shock to many when Donald Trump _____ president and then won the election.
3. _____, Wayne! You did a great job.
4. I used to live _____ Hokkaido and went hiking every day, but now I live in Tokyo and I don't.
5. We are going to visit my uncle who lives _____ in the southern part of Kyushu.
6. A man, who was desperate for money, _____ to his own business in order to get insurance money.
7. He _____ his opponent in the second round to become the new heavyweight world boxing champion.
8. _____ Bob. He broke the vase by accident and promised to pay for the damage.
9. _____ that my vacation was going to be a disaster.

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Content

1. What does Marty do with his guitar (and body) toward the end of playing “Johnny B. Goode?” Why do you think he does this, and how do the people react? What style of music would you call this?
2. What is a “class president?” Is there an equivalent position at Japanese high schools? Have you ever held (or wanted) such a position when you were in high school?
3. Why does Marvin Berry telephone his cousin Chuck? Who is Chuck Berry, and what does Marvin say to him? Why?
4. Why does George thank Marty for all his good advice? Can you think of other examples in the movie when Marty gave George some advice? Why do you think George appreciates Marty’s advice now, while before he hesitated to accept it?
5. Marty talks to George and Lorraine about their future life, asking them “to go easy on” their child if he accidentally sets fire to the living room rug. Who is Marty referring to?

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Discussion

1. What does Marty mean when he tells George and Lorraine that his time with them was *educational*? Can you recall any of the events that might fall into the category of being “educational” for Marty?
2. After he finishes playing the song, what does Marty mean when he says “I guess you guys aren’t ready for that yet...but your kids are going to love it”? Besides music, are there other aspects of popular culture in which there is a gap in “taste” between your generation and your parents’ generation?
3. The audience looked confused at the end of “Johnny B Goode” due to the style of music and guitar playing being different from what they were used to. When you were younger did you dislike a new style of music, fashion, TV show, etc.? What were your reasons for disliking it? Did you later change your mind and accept it? Why do you think some people are slow or resistant to accepting new “genres” of popular culture?
4. Discuss the lyrics of Chuck Berry’s classic rock song “Johnny B. Goode.” (See lyrics on the next page.) Discuss the meaning of any words or phrases you do not understand. What is this main message of the song, and why has it become arguably the most popular rock and roll song of all time?

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Way down Louisiana close to New Orleans
Way back up in the woods among the evergreens
There stood a log cabin made of earth and wood
Where lived a country boy named Johnny B. Goode
He never ever learned to read or write so well
But he could play the guitar just like a ringing a bell

[Chorus]

Go go, go Johnny go go
Go Johnny go go, go Johnny go go
Go Johnny go go, Johnny B. Goode

He use to carry his guitar in a gunny sack
And sit beneath the trees by the railroad track
Oh, the engineers used to see him sitting in the shade
Strumming to the rhythm that the drivers made
People passing by would stop and say
Oh my, that little country boy could play

[Chorus]

His mother told him someday he would be a man
And he would be the leader of a big old band
Many people coming from miles around
To hear him play his music when the sun go down
Maybe someday your name would be in lights
Saying Johnny B. Goode tonight

[Chorus]

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Vocabulary (Answers)

1. Abraham Lincoln was born to Thomas and Nancy Lincoln in a modest, one-room **log cabin** in 1809, and within a few years the family built another one near Knob Creek Farm, Kentucky.
2. I heard that Frank is planning to **run for** office.
3. **Nice going**, Taro. You did a great job on your paper.
4. Gold bounced its **way back up** as investors happily bought lots of it during the past week.
5. We are going to visit my relatives who live **way down** in southern Mississippi?
6. An angry man **set fire** to his neighbor's house because the grass in his backyard had grown too high, police said.
7. He **got laid out** at football practice yesterday by a big lineman.
8. **Go easy on** Nancy, she's had a really hard day at the office.
9. **I had a feeling** that my vacation was going to be a disaster.

Content (Answers)

1. Marty starts to jam on his guitar and play a much more aggressive style to the degree that the original song is unrecognizable; He also jumps, crawls on his back, kicks an amplifier, and so on.
2. A class president is usually the leader of a student body class, and presides over its class cabinet or organization within a student council. It is usually a position held only in schools in the U.S.
3. Charles Edward Anderson "Chuck" Berry (October 18, 1926-March 18, 2017) was an American guitarist, singer and songwriter, and one of the pioneers of rock and roll music.
4. Examples include asking Lorraine out to the dance, telling George not to let Biff bully him, etc. George later appreciated the advice once things turned in his favor (e.g., successfully beating up Biff and winning over Lorraine).
5. Marty.