



Wish You Were Here – Pink Floyd – Notes



- **Activity types:** Rhyming words, phonetic symbols, gap fill.
- **Level:** Elementary.
- **Time:** 20 mins.
- **Note:** Taken from Pink Floyd's 1975 album of the same name, this is about Roger Waters' feelings of alienation from other people. It also refers to Syd Barrett, a former member of the group.

1) Give each student a folded copy of the worksheet. Remind them of the phonetic symbol sounds, then ask them to work in pairs to complete the first exercise.

Key:

| | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| /aʊ/ | /əʊ/ | /ɪə/ | /eɪ/ | /i:/ | /e/ |
|------|------|------|------|------|-----|

| | | | | | |
|-------|--------|----------|-------|--------|------|
| bowl | found | exchange | here | breeze | Hell |
| souls | ground | change | fears | trees | tell |
| | | veil | | | |
| | | rail | | | |

- 2) Play the song. Students listen and number the words in the order they hear them.
- 3) Ask students to unfold the worksheet and to complete the next activity, based on the answers to the previous activities and context.
Key: See complete lyrics.
- 4) Play the song. Students check their answers and correct as necessary.
- 5) Feedback.
- 6) Explain any difficult vocabulary.
- 7) Sing together.

Follow up:

- Ask students if there anybody they would like to be here with them now?
- Tell them "Wish You Were Here" is a typical message on a holiday postcard. Where did they go on their last holiday? Did they send any postcards? If so, to who?

Complete lyrics:

So, so you think you can **tell**
Heaven from **Hell**,
Blue skies from pain.
Can you tell a green field
From a cold steel **rail**?
A smile from a **veil**?
Do you think you can **tell**?

Did they get you to trade
Your heroes for ghosts?
Hot ashes for **trees**?
Hot air for a cool **breeze**?
Cold comfort for **change**?
Did you **exchange**
A walk on part in the war
For a lead role in a cage?

How I wish,
how I wish you were here.
We're just two lost **souls**
Swimming in a fish **bowl**,
Year after year,
Running over the same old
ground.
What have we **found**?
The same old **fears**.
Wish you were **here**.



Wish You Were Here – Pink Floyd



Match the rhyming words and rewrite them under the correct phonetic symbol:

bowl
breeze
exchange
found
Hell
here
veil

change
fears
ground
rail
souls
tell
trees

| | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| /aʊ/ | /əʊ/ | /ɪə/ | /eɪ/ | /i:/ | /e/ |
|------|------|------|------|------|-----|

FOLD



Activity 2. Complete the song with the words from Activity 1.

So, so you think you can _____
 Heaven from _____,
 Blue skies from pain.
 Can you tell a green field
 From a cold steel _____?
 A smile from a _____?
 Do you think you can _____?

Did they get you to trade
 Your heroes for ghosts?
 Hot ashes for _____?
 Hot air for a cool _____?
 Cold comfort for _____?
 Did you _____
 A walk on part in the war
 For a lead role in a cage?

How I wish, how I wish you were here.
 We're just two lost _____
 Swimming in a fish _____,
 Year after year,
 Running over the same old _____.
 What have we _____?
 The same old _____.
 Wish you were _____.