

The Energy Blues

Energy...

Sometimes I think I'm runnin' out
Seems like we use an awful lot
For heatin' and lightin' and drivin'
Readin' and writin' and jivin'
Energy... You'd think we'd be savin' it up.

Energy... You can get it by dammin' up a river
Energy... A windmill can make the breeze deliver
But even with millin' and dammin'
Our needs are so much more demanding
For energy... We have to use some kind of fuel.

Chop, chop, chop, the cavemen used wood to
start their fires.
Chop, chop, chop, they made all the tools that
they required.
Chop, chop, chop, inventions got more and
more inspired.
The fires got higher and higher,
And clearings got wider and wider.
Energy... They were burnin' 'bout all their
wood up.

Then one day men discovered that coal would
do it better
Miners dug, and it looked like it might just
last forever.
It seemed like the final solution.
It started the Industrial Revolution.
Energy... We could just keep on diggin' it up.

Now in 1859— way out in western
Pennsylvania—

A man had built a rig that got some laughs from
folks who came there
But suddenly, a mighty roar came up from under
the ground.

And soon a gusher, gushin' oil, soaked all who
stood around.

Now no one knew, when that gusher blew,
The petroleum years were on us,
Or that so many cars and trucks would come to
cause a crisis.

Energy... We're looking to try and find some
new kinds.

Energy... Exploring to try and make a new find.
Nuclear and thermal and solar,
If we miss we'll get colder and colder.
Energy... We've gotta stop usin' you up.

So don't be cross when momma says turn
that extra light out.

Just turn it off 'til we find us a
fuel that never runs out.

If everyone tries a bit harder,
Our fuel will go farther and
farther.

Energy... We're gonna be
stretchin' you out.

LINKING TO LITERACY

Synthesizing

Effective readers collect pieces of information as they read. They combine new information with what they already know, and what they are learning, to gain deeper understanding.

- 1 Read the title. What do you predict the song will be about? As you read the song, identify new information or phrases that express the key ideas. Reflect on the new ideas presented and how they fit with the other ideas you have gathered.
- 2 After reading, summarize the text. You may consider questions like: What does the songwriter mean by: "Energy... A windmill can make the breeze deliver"? How does the title convey the meaning of the song?