

Abitur 04 Prüfung im 4. Fach

Text: "The Ghost of Tom Joad" by Bruce Springsteen

www.brucespringsteen.net/albums/tomjoad.html

Men walkin' long the railroad tracks
Goin' someplace there's no going back
Highway patrol choppers comin' up over the ridge

Hot soup on a campfire under the bridge
5 Shelter line stretchin' round the corner
Welcome to the new world order
Families sleepin' in their cars in the Southwest
No home no job no peace no rest

The highway is alive tonight
10 But nobody's kiddin' nobody about where it goes
I'm sittin' down here in the campfire light
Searchin' for the ghost of Tom Joad

He pulls a prayer book out of his sleeping bag
Preacher lights up a butt and takes a drag
15 Waitin for when the last shall be first and the first
shall be last
In a cardboard box 'neath the underpass
Got a one-way ticket to the promised land
You got a hole in your belly and a gun in your hand
20 Sleeping on a pillow of solid rock
Bathin' in the city aqueduct

The highway is alive tonight
Where it's headed everybody knows
I'm sittin' down here in the campfire light
25 Waitin' on the ghost of Tom Joad

Now Tom said "Mom wherever there's a cop
beatin' a guy
Wherever a newborn baby cries
Where there's a fight 'gainst the blood and hatred
30 in the air
Look for me Mom I'll be there
Wherever there's somebody fightin' for a
place to stand
Or decent job or a helpin' hand
35 Wherever somebody's strugglin' to be free
Look in their eyes Mom you'll see me."

Well the highway is alive tonight
But nobody's kiddin' nobody about where it goes
I'm sittin down here in the campfire light
40 With the ghost of old Tom Joad.

Annotations:

3 chopper – motorcycle **3** ridge - long narrow chain of hills **5** shelter line – a line of people that are queuing up **10** kid – tell false information for fun **14** butt – (informal) cigarette **14** drag – inhale / draw (on a cigarette) **17** 'neath – beneath **25** wait on – (informal) wait for

Assignments:

- 1) Describe the situation of the fellow citizens that the speaker meets.
- 2) What is Springsteen's message and how does he try to get it across (to the listeners)?
- 3) Relate Springsteen's lyrics to the ideals of the American Dream.