

The Classics - *and Us*

1/

We didn't wander as a cloud
On high o'er vales and hills,
Or stand at once to see a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils.

*We guddled trout up stany burns
An' climbed ower tips an' bings,
Played leevo till the lights came oan
An' scissors at the swings.*

2/

We didn't stand on burning decks
Whence all around had fled,
Or rise to go to Innisfree
To build a cabin shed.

*We built oor gang hut up the wids,
Had logs an' stumps for stools,
Smoked woodbine fags or number six
An' sometimes plugged the school.*

3/

We didn't charge for half a league
In valleys full of death,
Or meet a traveller from a land
Who'd seen two trunkless legs.

*We swam in quarries, built a fire
An' played best-man-fa's-deid,
Oor mithers saved up green shield stamps
An' fried us up plain breed.*

4/

We liked the sound of Xanadu
And even Kubla Khan,
And planned to see the pleasure-dome
Where sacred rivers ran.

*But first we had to walk three mile
An' sneak intae the flicks,
The entry money that we'd goat
Was yaised tae buy some chips.*

5/

We didn't lose a winnings heap
When playing pitch and toss,
We didn't have to start again
Or speak about our loss.

*The men we knew played 'heids or tails'
In sheds doon by the pit,
They'd chase us aff or kick oor arse,
An' coughed up blackened spit.*

6/

We didn't know of Lake Lebarge
Or men who moiled for gold,
Or Artic trails with secret tales
That would make our blood run cold.

*Our scary stuff was 'truth or dare'
At midnight doon the Kirk,
Huddled up by some auld grave
Whare ghaists an' spirits kick.*

7/

We didn't know the buds of May
Or how the rough winds shake,
Or that the way to beauty's heart
Was like a summer's day.

*We went tae discos in Church ha's
An' sipped oan Buckfast wine,
Some winched the lassies in the dark
While ithers sat in lines.*

8/

We never seen clods washed away
Or heard the toll of bells,
Or 'If' our sixty-seconds run
Would save us from ourselves.

*An' as the years hae rolled along
An' minutes tick unwanted,
We lift oor heids tae dae our best
An' plunder oan undaunted,
An' noo we stan' an' reminisce
As we've become advisors
On how the life we had as kids
Has made us a' the wiser!*