**"Brother, Can You Spare a Dime,"**

**lyrics by Yip Harburg, music by Jay Gorney (1931)**

This downbeat song reflects the plight of the thousands of unemployed World War I veterans, who camped out in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 1932 to lobby for payment of the 'bonus' Congress had pledged they would get in 1945.

They used to tell me I was building a dream, and so I followed the mob,

When there was earth to plow, or guns to bear, I was always there right on the job.

They used to tell me I was building a dream, with peace and glory ahead,

Why should I be standing in line, just waiting for bread?

Once I built a railroad, I made it run, made it race against time.

Once I built a railroad; now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?

Once I built a tower, up to the sun, brick, and rivet, and lime;

Once I built a tower, now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,

Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,

Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,

And I was the kid with the drum!

Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.

Why don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,

Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,

Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,

And I was the kid with the drum!

Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.

Say, don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?

Bing Crosby sings it on Youtube with Dorthea Lang Pictures:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZHEkU__Ijw>

1. In what year do you think this song was written?
2. Pick two lyrics or words that stand out to you:
3. Lyric:
4. Meaning in the song:
5. What this lyric means to you:
6. Lyric
7. Meaning in the song:
8. What this lyric means to you:

3. What does this song as a whole say about the time period?

4. If you were a teenager living in the early thirties, what would you do to help your family?