

Name _____

Date _____



Gilded Age

"Big Ballin' (in the Gilded Age)"

John D. Rockefeller:

I don't even need a beat. I could kick it a cappella,
Doo-wop, shoo-wop, I'm John D. Rockefeller.
I'm bigger than Big Pimpin', I'm bigger than Jay Z,
He named his record company after me.
I'm the O.G. with more oil than Valdez,
Standard Oil? That's just one of my companies.
I formed the trust, yes I did,
Now I'll gobble up these Colonel Sanders like they're chicken feed, see?

J. P. Morgan:

Who's next? That'd be me, J. P. Morgan,
Vital organ, fire people like they're orphans.
Yeah, you heard about me, Age is Gilded,
Banks: I built it. Towns: I filled it.
This robber baron is hotter than most of these wack cats,
I'm a real hustler putting trains on rail tracks.
Kicking those real facts, little homey pay attention:
The only one to use the law to bring me my position.

Andrew Carnegie:

Pass the mic, I'm Andrew Carnegie,
The one all these U.S. senators want to be.
The opposite of poverty,
Carnegie Steel, yeah we have a whole monopoly.
Like Horatio Alger, I'm rags to riches,

I used to have no dough, now my paper's vicious.

Social Darwinism, yeah, I can't be stopped,

Like that metal after it pop, I'm h-h-hot . . .

I'm the boss, I'm livin' large,

I'm a tycoon, and I'm big ballin'. . .

J. P. Morgan:

Yeah, you know who it be . . . JP,

Morgan that is. . . .

Your whole house? Smaller than my fish tank,

Making bank, but Congress wasn't giving me thanks.

We're the fat cats with the bad raps,

So they hit us with the Sherman Antitrust Act

To break up the monopolies,

But when they needed gold, that's when they crawled to me.

Hands-off, that's the laissez-faire economy,

Weak regulators, they can't bother me.

Joe Pulitzer:

I'm Joe Pulitzer. I'm 10 on the Richter,

I'm how they set the standard for all prize winners.

U.S. goes to war, I use news to divide us,

In Cuba, Teddy Roosevelt's screaming Rough Riders!

So tell me who's in control of your worldview,

The man with paper in hand, Pulitzer's the truth.

I don't need no facts, this is yellow journalism,

Exaggerate the truth, sensationalism.

John D. Rockefeller:

Rockefeller eats shrimp dipped in caviar,

I don't need a car, I ride on real jaguars.

I keep the prices high, the wages low,
So the Knights of Labor know who's in control.
I own 90% of oil, keep it greasy,
These machine politics are getting kind of sleazy.
Me and Boss Tweed, yeah we own the vote,
Tammany Hall, playa. That ain't no joke!

I'm the boss, I'm livin' large,
I'm a tycoon, and I'm big ballin' . . .