

Name _____

Date _____



The Roaring Twenties

The first Red Scare, economic laissez-faire,
Lots of folks owned stock—that's a share.
Money traded hands and technology advanced,
But not everybody got in on the dance.

Gone are the days of World War I.
Americans are tryna relax and have fun.
Oh, and of course, we want to make some money, honey.
Money long—it's the Roaring Twenties.
More folks live in cities than rural spots.
On the radio we hear the same commercial spots,
So we buy the same things at the same stores,
From the East Coast to the western shore.
And we dance the same dances to the same jazz,
And cars become the norm for the middle class.
Women win the right to vote and start working jobs,
Which meant they got their consumerism on.
Harlem Renaissance, Black culture gets popular,
While we look at civil rights through binoculars,
But everyone likes our jazz, art, and poetry,
And what was really roaring? The boom in the economy.

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'Cause Roaring Twenties weren't good all around:
The rich got rich, the poor were run to the ground.
For farmers, miners, and those doing rural work
Without electricity, there weren't so many perks.
Immigrants and Black Americans moved to cities,
And some White Americans didn't like that, really,
So racial tensions went down like this.
Prohibition makes it illegal to drink,
Which was seen by some as some type of power move,
Like, welcome to the city, say goodbye to your booze.
Meanwhile, the KKK gained traction,
And fear of communism brought nativist action,
So anybody not White and not born American,
Basically, Uncle Sam wasn't really there for them.
But even for folks with the cream of the crop,
They were soon gonna fall from the top,
'Cause to keep up with all that there was to want,
They started using lines of credit when they shopped.
Wages stopped growing, things were not fine,
And the stock market crashed in 1929.

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