

## the ARTICLE (for instructors)

### Danny Boy Banned

On March 17th of each year, every person enjoys honorary Irish heritage for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and from north to south and east to west across the globe, in New York City and Buenos Aires and Tokyo, people watch parades, imbibe green beer, and tuck into a plate of corned beef and cabbage. The lead up to the festivities throughout the month sees a spike in all things Irish, too, especially Guinness purchases and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has nixed one thing particularly Irish for the whole of March, regardless of the holiday - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy," ranked as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time, seems far more appropriate for a funeral than a holiday celebration. It symbolizes the exodus in the 1800s, when Irish fled starvation and bleak economic conditions for more optimistic opportunities elsewhere. A number of other Irish songs offer similarly depressing fare, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." The song relates the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

The bar owner griped that the song simply gets far too much playtime during the month, and he was frankly sick of it. In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day karaoke party would receive a Guinness on the house for singing any traditional Irish song but "Danny Boy."

Although some patrons are pleased with the decision, others consider it tantamount to blasphemy. A fair comparison would be the banning of "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" during December - something that just isn't done.

Teacher's Notes:

\* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

**the ARTICLE (for students)**

<b>griped</b>	<b>bleak</b>	<b>honorary</b>	<b>depressing</b>	<b>tantamount</b>
<b>patrons</b>	<b>fare</b>	<b>frankly</b>	<b>nixed</b>	<b>relates</b>
<b>imbibe</b>	<b>on the house</b>	<b>spike</b>	<b>optimistic</b>	<b>exodus</b>

**Danny Boy Banned**

On March 17th of each year, every person enjoys (a. \_\_\_\_\_) Irish heritage for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and from north to south and east to west across the globe, in New York City and Buenos Aires and Tokyo, people watch parades, (b. \_\_\_\_\_) green beer, and tuck into a plate of corned beef and cabbage. The lead up to the festivities throughout the month sees a (c. \_\_\_\_\_) in all things Irish, too, especially Guinness purchases and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has (d. \_\_\_\_\_) one thing particularly Irish for the whole of March, regardless of the holiday - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy," ranked as one of the twenty-five most (e. \_\_\_\_\_) tunes of all time, seems far more appropriate for a funeral than a holiday celebration. It symbolizes the (f. \_\_\_\_\_) in the 1800s, when Irish fled starvation and (g. \_\_\_\_\_) economic conditions for more (h. \_\_\_\_\_) opportunities elsewhere. A number of other Irish songs offer similarly depressing (i. \_\_\_\_\_), though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." The song (j. \_\_\_\_\_) the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

The bar owner (k. \_\_\_\_\_) that the song simply gets far too much playtime during the month, and he was (l. \_\_\_\_\_) sick of it. In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day karaoke party would receive a Guinness (m. \_\_\_\_\_) for singing any traditional Irish song but "Danny Boy."

Although some (n. \_\_\_\_\_) are pleased with the decision, others consider it (o. \_\_\_\_\_) to blasphemy. A fair comparison would be the banning of "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" during December - something that just isn't done.

## STEP ONE

**Define:** What does "St. Patrick's Day" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

## STEP TWO

**Word Search:** Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. How long did it take to find all the words?

fare	imbibe	optimistic	tantamount	on the house
exodus	frankly	nixed	griped	bleak
A I K B A C V E E P K E D H W N A A A S E R C G X X T G F E G B E T Q A S W W U O Y L X N R A L N F C L U B T L D O A T I O B O J I C W O K N D U A F P P I M B I B E N H O Z N S D E T K A V L Y A R S E T F C T D I A T X W R E T A A H W D B P M S N D F H E A M T P T C T B I I A H E S U O H E H T N O M S F T A Y X U D E K C I N I I T M D A G N I L J G Z L X I Z I T F V T R T N Q Q X E C I X C C T J D S H R O P J N G E B N B H Z B U K G V F O Y N T				

## STEP THREE

**Vocabulary Match:** Match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

fare	imbibe	optimistic	tantamount	on the house
exodus	frankly	nixed	griped	bleak
a.	People watch parades and ( ) green beer on St. Patrick's Day.			
b.	The owner has ( ) one thing particularly Irish for the whole of March - the song "Danny Boy."			
c.	The song symbolizes the ( ) in the 1800s.			
d.	The Irish fled starvation and ( ) economic conditions.			
e.	They left Ireland for more ( ) opportunities elsewhere.			
f.	A number of other Irish songs offer similarly depressing ( ), such as "Cockles and Mussels."			
g.	The bar owner ( ) that "Danny Boy" simply gets far too much playtime during the month.			
h.	He was ( ) sick of the song.			
i.	Participants would receive a Guinness ( ) for singing any traditional Irish song but "Danny Boy."			
j.	Although some patrons are pleased with the decision, others consider it ( ) to blasphemy.			

## STEP FOUR

**The Article:** 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your comprehension.

a.	What does the article say about St. Patrick's Day?
b.	What happened at a bar in Manhattan?
c.	What is the song about?
d.	What must patrons do to receive a free Guinness at the karaoke party?
e.	How do some patrons feel about the ban?

## STEP FIVE

**Discuss:** Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
b.	Is it fair that the bar owner has banned "Danny Boy?" Why/not?
c.	What do you think would happen if someone started to sing "Danny Boy" at the bar in Manhattan?
d.	What do you usually do for St. Patrick's Day?

**Score yourself:**

**10 or more times:** Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

**6-9 times:** Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home.

**5 or less times:** Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.