

# The Teacher's Lament

A Teacher from Arkansas

Merle Travis

Em C7 B7 Em

Some peo - ple say a tea - cher's

C7 B7 Em C7 B7

made out of steel;— Her mind can think, but her bo - dy can't feel;

Em Am Em

Iron and steel and hic - ko - ry tea,— Frowns and gripes from

Am Em Em C7 B7

10 nine to three.— You teach 11 six full hours and 12 what do you get?— A -

Em C7 B7 Em

13 no - ther day ol - der and 14 dee - per in debt.— 15 You pay your dues in

Am No Chords

16 this and that.— 17 Then for twen - ty - nine days, your 18 bill - fold's flat.—

Em C7 B7 Em

19 I 20 woke one 21 mor - ning; it was

C7

B7

Em

C7

B7

22 clou - dy and cool.— I 23 picked up my re - gi - ster and 24 star - ted for school. I

Em

Am

Em

25 wrote eigh - ty - four names on the 26 home room roll,— And the 27 Prin - ci - pal said, "Well,

Am

Em

Em

C7

B7

28 bless my soul."— You teach 29 six full hours and 30 what do you get?—

Em

C7

B7

Em

31 Cuts and brui - ses and 32 dirt and sweat.— I got 33 two black eyes and can

Am

No Chords

34 35 36

hard - ly walk. — When I turned my back, then came the chalk. —

Em

C7

B7

Em

37 38 39

I got eigh - ty - four kids — and

C7

B7

Em

C7

B7

40 41 42

for - ty - two seats; — Six - ty are talk - ing, while twen - ty - four sleep. I can

Em

Am

43 44

hard - ly get 'em all through the class - room door. — If I

Em Am Em Em

45 46 47

don't watch out, they'll give me twen - ty - four more.— You teach six full hours to

C7 B7 Em C7 B7

48 49 50

eigh - ty - four brats,— And all of them yel - ling like dogs and cats.— They're

Em Am No Chords

51 52

cut - ting on the seats and wri - ting on the walls,

Em C7 B7

53 54 55 56

Hug - ging and kis - sing in the up-stairshalls.— The

Em C7 B7 Em

57 58 59

last bell rings and I start for the door.— My head is ring - ing and my

C7 B7 Em Am

60 61 62

feet are sore.— I taught six full hours: my day is made. But I

Em Am Em Em

63 64 65

still have three hun - dred pa - pers to grade.— You teach six full hours and

C7 B7 Em C7 B7

66 67 68

what do you get?— A - no - ther day ol - der and dee - per in debt.— I'll

Em

Am

No Chords

69 70 71

go to Saint Pe - ter, but I can't stay:— I got - ta get back to the

72 73

P. T. A. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Teacher's Lament - Acoustic Guitar #1

Merle Travis  
An Arkansas Teacher

This musical score is for the acoustic guitar piece "The Teacher's Lament" by Merle Travis. It is written in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of ten staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music is characterized by a steady, rhythmic accompaniment with a mix of eighth and quarter notes, often featuring a "chop" or "boom-chick" pattern. Chord changes are indicated by letters above the staff, and some notes are marked with fingerings (e.g., "3" for a triplet). The piece concludes with a final chord on the tenth staff.

Chord progression: Em, C7, B7, Em, C7, B7, Em, Am, Em, Em, C7, B7, Em, Am, Em, Em, C7, B7, Em, C7, B7, Em, Am, Em, Em, C7, B7, Em, Am, Em.



This musical score is for the piece "The Teacher's Lament - Acoustic Guitar #1 - Page 2". It is written for acoustic guitar in the key of E major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of ten staves of music, each with a measure number and a chord diagram above it. The chords used are Em, C7, B7, Am, and E. The notation includes eighth and quarter notes, rests, and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 37. The piece concludes with a final Em chord in measure 73.

37 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7

41 Em C7 B7 Em Am

45 Em Am Em Em C7 B7

49 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

53 Em C7 B7

57 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7

61 Em Am Em Am Em

65 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7

69 Em Am Em

73 Em

# The Teacher's Lament - Acoustic Guitar #2

Merle Travis  
An Arkansas Teacher

Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Musical notation for measures 37-45. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measure 37 starts with a treble staff containing a chord and a bass staff with a quarter note. Measures 38-45 show a sequence of chords in the treble staff and rests in the bass staff.

Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Musical notation for measures 46-54. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measure 46 starts with a treble staff containing a chord and a bass staff with a quarter note. Measures 47-54 show a sequence of chords in the treble staff and notes in the bass staff.

Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Musical notation for measures 55-63. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measure 55 starts with a treble staff containing a chord and a bass staff with a quarter note. Measures 56-63 show a sequence of chords in the treble staff and rests in the bass staff.

Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Musical notation for measures 64-72. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measure 64 starts with a treble staff containing a chord and a bass staff with a quarter note. Measures 65-72 show a sequence of chords in the treble staff and notes in the bass staff.

Em

Musical notation for measure 73. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measure 73 shows a treble staff with a whole rest and a bass staff with a whole rest.

# The Teacher's Lament - Harmonica

Merle Travis  
An Arkansas Teacher

Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern: G3, B2, D3, E3, G3, B2, D3, E3. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: Em, C7, B7, Em, C7, B7, Em, C7, B7, Em, Am, and Em.

Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble clef melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: Am, Em, Em, C7, B7, Em, C7, B7, Em, Am, and Em. A fingering number '10' is written below the first note of the treble staff.

Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

The third system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble clef melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: Em, C7, B7, Em, C7, B7, Em, C7, B7, Em, Am, and Em. A fingering number '19' is written below the first note of the treble staff.

Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble clef melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: Am, Em, Em, C7, B7, Em, C7, B7, Em, Am, and Em. A fingering number '28' is written below the first note of the treble staff.

Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em

Em

# The Teacher's Lament - Acoustic String Bass

Merle Travis

An Arkansas Teacher

Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em Am Em

11 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em Em C7 B7

21 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em Am Em Em C7 B7

31 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7

41 Em C7 B7 Em Am Em Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7

51 Em Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7

61 Em Am Em Am Em Em C7 B7 Em C7 B7 Em Am E<sup>m</sup>

71 Em