

THE CAPTAIN OF THE 1964 TOP OF THE FORM TEAM

Do Wah Diddy Diddy, Baby Love, Oh Pretty Woman

were in the Top Ten that month, October, and the Beatles were everywhere else. I can give you the B-side of the Supremes one. Hang on. 'Come See About Me?'

I lived in a kind of **fizzing hope**. **Gargling with Vimto**. **The clever smell of my satchel**. Convent girls.

I pulled my hair forward with a **steel comb that I blew like Mick**, my lips numb as a two-hour snog.

No snags. **The Nile rises in April. Blue and white**. **The humming-bird's song is made by its wings**, which beat so fast that they blur in flight. I knew the capitals, the Kings and Queens, the dates. In class, the **white sleeve of my shirt saluted again and again**. 'Sir!' ... 'Correct.'

Later, I **whooped** at the side of my bike, a cowboy, mounted it running in one jump. I spend down Dyke Hill, no hands, famous, learning, **dominus domine dominum**.

Dave Dee Dozy. **try me. Come on**. My mother kept my mascot **Gonk** on the TV set for a year. And the photograph. I look so brainy you'd think I'd just had a bath. **The blazer. The badge. The tie**. The first chord of A Hard Day's Night loud in my head. I ran to the Spinney in my prize shoes, up Churchill Way, up Nelson Drive, over **pink pavements** that girls chalked on, in a blue evening; and I stamped the pawprints of badgers and skunks in the mud. My country.

I want it back. The captain. **The one with all the answers**. **Bzz!** **My name was in red on Lucille Green's satchel**. I smiled as wide as a child who went missing on the way home from school. The hen. **I say to my male wife**

'Six hits by Lunt Springfield'. I say to my boss 'A pint!' 'How can we know the dancer from the dance?' Nobody. **My lack kids wings**. Name the prime Minister of Rhodesia. My country. **How many florins in a pound?**

Songs of the time. Happy pop chart represents how the reader is feeling.

Lexical fields

Using onomatopoeia evokes a sense of optimism and excitement about the future however fizzing doesn't last

Boyish action shows lack of inhibition

Educating the reader to prove his intelligence which suggest insecurity or lack of modesty

The tone of the poem speeds up before saying these Latin words "lord, master, ruler" showing the speaker took the popularity to a next level. Rule of three

Colour imagery

This made the speaker feel like people always needed them. 'bzz' onomatopoeia makes the reader feel like they go into a flashback

The speaker does not have the lifestyle they was going to have

Rhetorical question suggest that they have lost their intelligence

Transferred epithet/personification (his smarts have been given to the satchel) evokes a sense of self belief
Humorous language. Also suggest to the reader the age of the reader (young teenage)

Colour imagery (white sleeve) connotations of innocence and naivety.
Shows a sense of popularity. The word salute suggest the speaker sees themselves as a hero figure (soldier's salute)

Desperate for people to test his knowledge and show off
The speakers uniform of success

The speaker idea of being famous and known.

Indication of abuse? The speaker quizzes them and they get the answers wrong. Because the speaker doesn't have the lifestyle they used to have they are angry and unhappy

Context:

Top of the form was a BBC television quiz for secondary schools that challenged extremely smart individuals

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdgOjFZknbg>

Themes:

- Popularity
- Smarts
- Childhood
- Nostalgia
- Lifestyle