

Silverstein Shel

"Folk Singers Blues"

Visit "[Folk Singers Blues](#)" on MotoLyrics.com

Folk Singer's Blues

(Shel Silverstein)

Well, I'd like to sing a song about the chain gang
(Whap!)

And swingin' twelve pound hammers all the day,
(Whap!)

And how a I'd like to kill my captain (Whap!)

And how a black man works his life away, but...

What do you do if you're young and white and Jewish?

And you've never swung a hammer against a spike?

And you've never called a water boy

Early in the morning

And your only chain is the chain that's on your bike?
Yes,

Your only chain is the chain on your bike.

Now I'd like to a-walkin up the highway

Feelin' cold and wet and hungry all night long,

Doin' some hard ramblin', hard gamblin', hard
smamblin', hard blamblin'

But always takin' time to write a song. But...

What do you do if you're young and white and Jewish?

And you never heard an old freight whistle blow?

And you've never slept the night

In a cold and empty box car

And you take a subway everywhere you go? Oh, oh

You take the subway everywhere you go.

Now I'd like to sing a song about the coal mine

A-chippin' away in tunnel 22

And when I hear that timber crack, why I support it with
my back

Until my comrades all crawl safely through, but...

What do you do if you're young and white and Jewish?

And you've got to be in class at half-past nine

And in spite of all your urgin', and your pleadin' and
your cryin'

Your mother says it's too dirty down in a mine, That
what she says,

Your mother says it's too dirty down in a mine.

Well now, I'd like to sing about the Mississippi,

Workin' on the levee all the day

And when them cotton bolls get rotten

You got a lotta rotten cotton

And on Saturday you go and spend your pay, but

What do you do if you're young and white and Jewish?

And you've never loaded cotton on the dock?

And you've never worked a day

Or drunk up all your pay

And the only levee you know is the Levy who lives on
the block, Yes

The only levee you know is the Levy who lives on the
block.

@folk @music

filename[YNGWHIT

RG

===DOCUMENT BOUNDARY

Visit [Silverstein Shel](#) page on MotoLyrics.com, to get more lyrics and videos.

[MotoLyrics.com](#) | Lyrics, music videos, artist biographies, releases and more.