

## Genius GZA

### "Those Were the Days"

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Those were the days, back in Junior High  
For an 8th grader, my style was kinda fly  
And just to prove I was an MC Pro  
I often sponsored a classroom show  
And the hype part of my imagination  
Was making my homeroom a hip hop station  
Minutes before the late bell would ring  
I would greet the audience and then I'll swing  
A lyric or two as the students barked  
Beacuse my rhymes had sparked  
Off somethign causing the class to mingle  
To a rhythm which is now a 12" single  
Letting off many styles of hip hop  
Holding the mic that I made in wood shop  
Forget gold, my key chain was a cable  
Two math textbooks were turntables  
And for a mixer, something much cooler  
A penny being cross faded on a ruler  
Measuring dope beats that were flexed  
From hands that played a drum roll on a desk  
From my home girl, her name, fly as Emory  
Sweet memory  
I remember sitting in my art class  
Drawing up lyrics kinda fast  
The outcome, a masterpiece  
Live shows with hyped up rhymes released  
As if lyrics were flowing from the heavens above  
I'll grab a mic and provoke a push to a shove  
From boys and girls who broke necks to see  
The lyrics G.O.D.

Those were the days

Now it's high school, lunch room's the scene  
And I'm ready to flip the routing  
In the cafeteria, period three  
And here I come with the JVC  
I go in my pocket and pull out a mic  
Plug it in, check one-two...alright  
Now who wanna show and prove their MC skills?  
A brother stepped forward and tried to get ill

But when it came time to live out his name  
He kicked rhymes that all sounded the same  
But I did him in with a matter of time  
And he was done with one victorious rhyme  
He was shocked because he knew he was rocked  
Along with his classmates from off his block  
YO!, I'm telling you, I flipped his whole crew  
One against one or one against two  
Or three or four brothers who swore they can rhyme  
Battled me and got taken out every time  
From my style and my dope profile  
Plus the period of time that I rocked for awhile  
As a motivated, dominated supreme force  
Cultivated, activated cream and source  
The wise educated and born to be  
The one who would flip an MC

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