

## Lyrics for 'Sit Down Young Stranger'

by Gordon Lightfoot, 1970

I'm standin' at the doorway  
My head bowed in my hands  
Not knowin' where to sit  
Not knowin' where to stand  
My father looms above me  
For him there is no rest  
My mother's arms enfold me  
And hold me to her breast  
They say you've been out wandrin'  
They say you've travelled far  
Sit down young stranger  
And tell us who you are

The room has all gone misty  
My thoughts are all in spin  
Sit down young stranger  
And tell us where you been

Well, I've been up to the mountain,  
I've walked down by the sea  
I never questioned no one  
And no one questioned me  
My love was given freely  
And oftimes was returned  
I never came to borrow  
I only came to learn

Sometimes it did get lonely  
But it taught me how to cry  
And laughter came too easy  
For life to pass me by  
I never had a dollar  
That I didn't earn with pride  
'Cause I had a million daydreams to keep me  
satisfied

And will you gather daydreams?  
Or will you gather wealth?  
How can you find your fortune?  
When you cannot find yourself?  
My mother's eyes grow misty  
There's a tremblin' in her hand  
Sit down young stranger, I do not  
understand.

And will you try and tell us  
You been too long at school?  
That knowledge is not needed  
That power does not rule?  
That war is not the answer  
That young men should not die  
Sit down young stranger  
I wait for your reply

The answer is not easy  
For souls are not reborn  
To wear the crown of peace  
You must wear the crown of thorns  
If Jesus had a reason  
I'm sure he would not tell  
They treated him so badly  
How could he wish them well?

The parlor now is empty  
There's nothin' left to say  
My father has departed  
My mother's gone to pray  
There's rockets in the meadows  
And ships out on the sea  
The answer's in the forest carved upon a tree

John loves Mary, does anyone love me?