

School Holidays

Always a charm
With no alarm
Just the thinnest light trap
The smallest gap
In curtains that are torn asunder
No sound of thunder
Just the song of birds from afar
And occasionally a car
School holidays
Time to play
To stay away all day
A football match, three hours each way
With just a small rest in between
For squash as orange as grass is green
Then cricket, fancy that?
Tennis racquet for a bat
Stumps? A lamppost standing tall
Peering down at urchins small
Breathless, and thin as rakes
Making friends and some mistakes
Chasing dogs
Collecting frogs
In streams that could hold a paper boat
And sticks that float
Climbing trees
Scabby knees
Scrub them clean
Coat with plasters and Germolene
Getting late the sun fades
The end of days
Time for tea
A bath a book, a bed, now sleep
Rest well, but have no cause for sorrow
Oh, no! We'll do it all again tomorrow



***Michael Madden** has worked for many years in the IT industry, as a result of which he has been quoted in publications as prestigious as the New York Times. In 2017, he created *Elvis Under The Covers*, exploring the legacy of Elvis Presley through the artists who have recorded his most often covered original songs. Originally from Sale in Cheshire, Michael now lives with his wife Sally in the more peaceful surroundings of Whaley Bridge, in the Peak District.*

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