

We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day

Darlin', deep in my heart
I do believe
We shall overcome some day

We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand some day

Darlin', deep in my heart
I do believe
We'll walk hand in hand some day

We shall live in peace
We shall live in peace
We shall live in peace some day

Darlin', deep in my heart
I do believe
We shall live in peace some day

We are not afraid
We are not afraid
We shall overcome some day

Here in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome some day

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day
Darlin', deep in my heart

I do believe
We shall overcome some day
We shall overcome some day

shall – verb – Old English for “will.”

Darlin' – noun – Short for “darling,” what you call someone close to you

hand in hand – An expression for holding hands



Questions

1. What do you think “overcome” means?

2. This song was first written in 1945. What problem did they want to overcome? (It’s not about the war.)



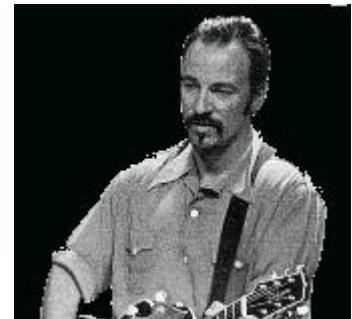
Pete Seeger made this song famous in 1970.

3. In the 1960s, they added the parts about “walking hand in hand.” What problem did they want to overcome?

4. Why does the song say, “I do believe”? Why does the song say, “some day”?

Bruce Springsteen

This *version* of “We Shall Overcome” was sung by Bruce Springsteen in 2006. Bruce is one America's most famous stars. He has *recorded* 24 albums in 33 years, and sold millions of albums.



Bruce was born in New Jersey in 1949. His father was a bus driver and his mother was a secretary. He writes songs about regular people who need to work to make enough money. When he started singing, Bruce played many concerts in New Jersey. Most musicians only play for an hour or two; Bruce's concerts often lasted for four hours. He became famous as a musician who worked hard for his *fans*.

Bruce is also famous for caring about people. In the 1990s, some politicians in California wanted to make laws to hurt immigrants. At every concert in California, Bruce told his fans why this was a bad idea. A few fans asked for a refund. He always gave them their money back, but he never changed his mind. Today, Bruce sings about poor people, the Iraq war, and New Orleans.

Vocabulary

1. *version* – noun – A different copy of something. “This is a newer version of the song.”
2. *record* – verb – To copy something onto a tape. “I recorded a TV show last night.”
3. *fan* – noun – Someone who likes something a lot. “I’m a big rock and roll fan.”