

# **Sit Down Young Stranger**

**(Gordon Lightfoot)**

Time Signature: 4/4

Chords: A, C, D, E, G

Tempo: 110 - 130 BPM

## [INTRO]

G

## [VERSE 1]

G

I'm standin' at the doorway,

C

G

my head down in my hands

C

G

Not knowin' where to sit,

D

not knowin' where I stand

G

My father looms above me,

C

G

for him there is no rest

C

G

My mother's arms enfold me

D

and hold me to her breast

G

"They say you've been out wanderin',

C

G

they say you've traveled far

C

G

Sit down, young stranger

D

and tell us who you are"

G

The room has all gone misty,

C

G

my thoughts are all in spin

C

G

"Sit down, young stranger

D

G

and tell us where you been"

[VERSE 2]

G  
 "Well, I've been up to the mountain,  
 C G  
 I've walked down by the sea  
 C G  
 I never questioned no one  
 D  
 and no one questioned me  
 G  
 My love was given freely  
 C G  
 and oft-times was returned  
 C G  
 I never came to borrow,  
 D  
 I only came to learn  
 G  
 Sometimes it did get lonely,  
 C G  
 but it taught me how to cry  
 C G  
 And laughter came too easy  
 D  
 for life to pass me by  
 G  
 I never had a dollar  
 C G  
 that I didn't earn with pride  
 C G  
 'Cause I had a million daydreams  
 D  
 to keep me satisfied"

**[ INTERLUDE ]**

G      G      C      G      C      G      D      G

[VERSE 3]

A  
"And will you gather daydreams,  
D A  
or will you gather wealth?  
D A  
How can you find your fortune  
E  
if you cannot find yourself?"  
A  
My mother's eyes grow misty,  
D A  
there's a tremblin' in her hand  
D A  
"Sit down, young stranger,  
E  
I do not understand  
A  
And will you try and tell us  
D A  
that you've been too long at school?  
D A  
That knowledge is not needed,  
E  
that power does not rule?  
A  
That war is not the answer,  
D A  
that young men should not die?  
D A  
Sit down young stranger,  
E  
I wait for your reply"

[VERSE 4]

A  
"The answer is not easy  
D A  
for souls are not reborn  
D A  
To wear the crown of peace,  
E  
you must wear the Crown of Thorns  
A  
If Jesus had a reason,  
D A  
I'm sure he would not tell  
D A  
They treated him so badly,  
E  
how could he wish them well?"  
A  
The parlor now is empty,  
D A  
there's nothin' left to say  
D A  
My father has departed,  
E  
my mother's gone to pray  
A  
There's rockets in the meadows  
D A  
and ships out on the sea  
D A  
The answer's in the forest,  
E  
carved upon a tree:  
D A  
"John loves Mary,"...  
E A  
does anyone love me?