

The Animals - We Gotta Get Out Of This Place (1965)

In this _____ old part of the city
Where the sun _____ to shine
_____ tell me there ain't no use in tryin'
Now my _____, you're so young and pretty
And one thing I _____ is true
You'll be _____ before your time is due, I know
Watch my _____ in bed a-dyin'
Watched his _____ been turnin' grey
He's been workin' and _____ his life away, oh yes I know it
And I've been _____ too, baby (yeah!)
Every _____ and day (yeah!)
We _____ get out of this place
If it's the _____ thing we ever do
We gotta get out of this place
'Cause girl, there's a _____ life for me and you
**better, dirty, girl, hair, daddy, refused, dead, slavin',
workin' , People, night, last, gotta, know**

📖 "We Gotta Get Out of this Place" has become a symbol of the Vietnam War. In fact, the song, recorded by the Animals, was used as the intro for the television series *Tour of Duty*, a dramatic series set on an American base stationed in Vietnam that ran from 1997 through 1990 when there was a **resurgence** of Vietnam War-**themed** shows and movies. At first glance, the song appears to be just that, a Vietnam War anthem demanding the U.S. government to withdraw from the Vietnam conflict. But, at closer look, the lyrics tell a different story. The song was written by husband and wife team Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil, a productive Brill Building team that started with popular "**fluffy**" songs such as The **Drifters'** "On Broadway" and

The Crystals' "**Uptown**." Examination of the lyrics of "We Gotta Get Out of this Place" reveals that this song really is not much different than "On **Broadway**" or "Uptown" in that "We Gotta Get Out of this Place" is about a young couple caught in a working-class city **slum**, trying to make a better life for themselves before the working-class lifestyle literally kills them, like the narrator's father who worked himself to death at a young age. "On Broadway" and "Uptown" also refer to finding a better life in a better place. Although "We Gotta Get Out of this Place" **resonated** with soldiers **deployed** to Vietnam during that conflict when the song was released, the song generally is more about finding a way out to **pursue** a better life. It is **understandable** that the song became an anthem, and **arguably** the most requested song on Armed Forces Radio during the Vietnam conflict. The song clearly **relates** to the soldiers' need to "get out of that place." But, this song is a perfect example of the numerous **offerings** from this time period that were not specifically written as anti-war anthems, but were successfully **re-purposed** as such.

📖 I can easily understand why a soldier in Vietnam would sing "We Gotta Get Out of This Place," but the song wasn't written about Vietnam. After all, the Animals were Englishmen, from the town of Newcastle. They were in no danger of getting **drafted** to fight in Vietnam!

The song is about a young man who **yearns** to get out of the dirty, **dismal**, smoggy industrial town he's growing up in. His own father is getting **prematurely** old and gray from working at a factory, and the young man wants no part of that life. He wants to run away with his girlfriend to somewhere they can be free and happy.

1. _____ an increase or **revival** after a period of little activity, popularity, or occurrence.
2. _____ an instance of something becoming popular, active, or important again; comeback
3. _____ adapt for use in a different purpose.
3. _____ a squalid and overcrowded urban street or district inhabited by very poor people.
4. _____ follow or chase (sb or sth).
5. _____ to be expected; natural, reasonable, or forgivable.
6. _____ it may be argued
7. _____ make or show a connection between.
8. _____ a thing produced for entertainment or sale.
9. _____ a person who is continually moving from place to place, without any fixed home or job.
10. _____ of or characteristic of an affluent area or people.
11. _____ a moral or legal obligation; a responsibility.
12. _____ (of a leisure venue, event, etc.) given a particular theme or setting.
13. _____ a large open or main road.
14. _____ have an intense feeling of longing for something, typically something that one has lost or been separated from.
15. _____ select (a person or group of people) and bring them somewhere for a certain purpose; conscript (someone) for military service.
16. _____ causing a mood of gloom or depression.
17. _____ frivolous or silly; lacking depth or seriousness.
18. _____ work excessively hard.
19. _____ evoke images, memories, and emotions.
20. _____ move (troops or equipment) into position for military action.
21. _____ before the due time; ahead of time.