

Neighborhood Bully

Bob Dylan

Intro: E

verse 1

Well, the neighborhood bully, he s just one man,
His enemies say he s on their land.
They got him outnumbered about a million to one,
He got no place to escape to, no place to run.
He s the neighborhood bully.

verse 2

The neighborhood bully just lives to survive,
He s criticized and condemned for being alive.
He s not supposed to fight back, he s supposed to have thick skin,
He s supposed to lay down and die when his door is kicked in.
He s the neighborhood bully.

verse 3

The neighborhood bully been driven out of every land,
He s wandered the earth an exiled man.
Seen his family scattered, his people hounded and torn,
He s always on trial for just being born.
He s the neighborhood bully.

verse 4

Well, he knocked out a lynch mob, he was criticized,
Old women condemned him, said he should apologize.
Then he destroyed a bomb factory, nobody was glad.

The bombs were meant for him. He was supposed to feel bad.

A D A D A D A

He s the neighborhood bully.

Verse 5

D A E

Well, the chances are against it and the odds are slim

D A E

That he ll live by the rules that the world makes for him,

G D A

Cause there s a noose at his neck and a gun at his back

A E G D

And a license to kill him is given out to every maniac.

A D A D A D A

He s the neighborhood bully.

Verse 6

D A E

He got no allies to really speak of.

D A E

What he gets he must pay for, he don t get it out of love.

G D A

He buys obsolete weapons and he won t be denied

A E G D

But no one sends flesh and blood to fight by his side.

A D A D A D A

He s the neighborhood bully.

Verse 7

D A E

Well, he s surrounded by pacifists who all want peace,

D A E

They pray for it nightly that the bloodshed must cease.

G D A

Now, they wouldn t hurt a fly. To hurt one they would weep.

A E G D

They lay and they wait for this bully to fall asleep.

A D A D A D A

He s the neighborhood bully.

Verse 8

D A E

Every empire that s enslaved him is gone,

D A E

Egypt and Rome, even the great Babylon.

G D A

He s made a garden of paradise in the desert sand,

A E G D

In bed with nobody, under no one s command.

A D A D A D A

He s the neighborhood bully.

Verse 9

D A E
 Now his holiest books have been trampled upon,
 D A E
 No contract he signed was worth what it was written on.
 G D A
 He took the crumbs of the world and he turned it into wealth,
 A E G D
 Took sickness and disease and he turned it into health.
 A D A D A D A
 He s the neighborhood bully.

verse 10

D A E
 What s anybody indebted to him for?
 D A E
 Nothin , they say. He just likes to cause war.
 G D A
 Pride and prejudice and superstition indeed,
 A E G D
 They wait for this bully like a dog waits to feed.
 A D A D A D A
 He s the neighborhood bully.

verse 11

D A E
 What has he done to wear so many scars?
 D A E
 Does he change the course of rivers? Does he pollute the moon and stars?
 G D A
 Neighborhood bully, standing on the hill,
 A E G D
 Running out the clock, time standing still,
 A D A D A D A
 Neighborhood bully.