

# Old Joe Clark

Words & Music:  
Traditional American

*There are a zillion verses for this. Feel free to send any along! You can also sub a V chords (E or E7 or Em) for the bVII (G) chord. Either works. It's a matter of personal preference. There is a nice arrangement of this by Craig Dobbins in the December 2005 issue of Acoustic Guitar.*

A G  
Old Joe Clark's a fine old man, tell you the reason why.  
A G A  
He keeps good likker 'round his house, good old Rock & Rye.

CHORUS:

A G  
Fare ye well, Old Joe Clark! Fare ye well, I say.  
*[alt: Fare thee well, Old Joe Clark. Goodbye, Betsy Brown.]*  
A  
Fare ye well, Old Joe Clark! I'm a-goin' away.  
*[alt: Fare thee well, Old Joe Clark. I'm gonna leave this town.]*

Old Joe Clark used to clean the bar. Liquor was his pay.  
Never saved a golden eagle. Drank it all away.

CHORUS:

Old Joe Clark, the preacher's son, preached all over the plain.  
The only text he ever knew was high, low, Jack and the game.

CHORUS:

Old Joe Clark had a mule, his name was Morgan Brown.  
And every tooth in that mule's head was sixteen inches 'round.

CHORUS:

Old Joe Clark had a yellow cat, she would neither sing or pray.  
She stuck her head in the buttermilk jar & washed her sins away.

CHORUS:

Old Joe Clark, he had a house, fifteen stories high.  
And every story in that house was filled with chicken pie.

CHORUS: