

# Cats in the Cradle

by Harry Chapin

**E** **G**  
A child arrived just the other day.  
**D** **E**  
He came to the world in the usual way.  
**E** **G** **D**  
But there were planes to catch, and bills to pay.  
**D** **E**  
He learned to walk while I was away.  
**D** **G**  
And he was talking 'fore I knew it, and as he grew,  
**G** **D** **E**  
He'd say, "I'm gonna be like you, dad."  
**G** **D** **E**  
You know I'm gonna be like you."

## CHORUS:

**E** **D**  
*And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon,*  
**G** **A**  
*Little boy blue and the man in the moon.*  
**E** **D**  
*"When you coming home, dad?" "I don't know when,*  
**G** **E** **G** **D** **E**  
*But we'll get together then... You know we'll have a good time then."*

My son turned ten just the other day.  
He said, "Thanks for the ball, dad, come on let's play.  
Can you teach me to throw?" I said, "Not today,  
I got a lot to do." He said, "That's ok."  
And he walked away, but his smile never dimmed,  
Said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah.  
You know I'm gonna be like him."

## **REPEAT CHORUS**

Well, he came from college just the other day,  
So much like a man I just had to say,  
"Son, I'm proud of you. Can you sit for a while?"  
He shook his head, and he said with a smile,  
"What I'd really like, dad, is to borrow the car keys.  
See you later. Can I have them please?"

## **REPEAT CHORUS**

I've long since retired and my son's moved away.  
I called him up just the other day.  
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind."  
He said, "I'd love to, dad, if I could find the time.  
You see, my new job's a hassle, and the kid's got the flu,  
But it's sure nice talking to you, dad.  
It's been sure nice talking to you."  
And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me,  
He'd grown up just like me... My boy was just like me.

## **REPEAT CHORUS**