

He Was Only Eight Years Old

The image shows a musical score for the song 'He Was Only Eight Years Old'. It consists of eight staves of music in 6/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first four staves form the main body of the song, and the last four staves form the chorus. The lyrics are: 'In Lon-don, the world's great-est cit - y, A ter - ri - ble crime has been done And all feel-ing hearts fill with pi - ty For a moth-er who sad - ly mourns Her heart with pain is break-ing For gone is her pride and joy Some cruel fiend hath robbed her Of her darl - ing lit - - tle boy Chorus He was on - - ly eight years old And a bright lit - tle lad was he De - - cayed from home and moth-er And sent to e - ter - - ni - - ty A moth-er in grief near - by Was search-ing for him in vain While her cur - ly-haired lit - tle dar-ling Lay dead in a rail - way train'.

In Lon-don, the world's great-est cit - y, A ter - ri - ble crime has been done
And all feel-ing hearts fill with pi - ty For a moth-er who sad - ly mourns
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Chorus
He was on - - ly eight years old And a bright lit - tle lad was he
De - - cayed from home and moth-er And sent to e - ter - - ni - - ty
A moth-er in grief near - by Was search-ing for him in vain
While her cur - ly-haired lit - tle dar-ling Lay dead in a rail - way train

2. The next scene, a north London railway,
A youth took his place in the train,
And under the seat he discovered
A little boy foully slain.
How the horrors of London were ringing
At the murder which had been done,
Still a broken-hearted mother
Seek for her missing son.
Chorus

3. The father was charged with the murder,
What a hero he proved to be,
But one night some liars were saved through
Sarge Field's great bravery.
But witnesses had sworn that
They saw him that afternoon,
With poor little Willie,
Just 'ere he met his doom.
Chorus

Source: Lucy Reeder, Stroud, collected by Gwilym Davies, May 24th 1996

Notes: The singer said that she learned this song in 1911, the year that this event took place.

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