

On a **warm** summer's **evening** on a **train** bound for **nowhere**  
I **met** up with a **gambler**, we were **both** too tired to **sleep**  
So **we** took turns a-**staring** out the **window** at the **darkness**  
The **boredom** overtook us, **and** he began to **speak**

/ C - F C / - - - G / 1st / F C G C / (capo 3)

/ D - G D / - - - A / 1st / G D A D / (capo 1)

He said, son I've made my life out of reading people's faces  
And knowing what the cards were by the way they held their eyes  
So if you don't mind my sayin', I can see you're out of aces  
For a taste of your whiskey I'll give you some advice

Now, every gambler knows, the secret to survivin'  
Is knowing what to throw away, knowing what to keep  
'Cause every hand's a winner and every hand's a loser  
And the best you can hope for is to die in your sleep

So I handed him my bottle, and he drank down my last swallow  
Then he bummed a cigarette and asked me for a light  
And the night got deathly quiet, and his face lost all expression  
Said, if you're gonna play the game, boy, you gotta learn to play it right

When he'd finished speakin', he turned back toward the window  
Crushed out his cigarette and faded off to sleep  
Then somewhere in the darkness, the gambler he broke even  
But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep

You got to **know** when to **hold** 'em, **know** when to **fold** 'em  
**Know** when to **walk** away, **know** when to **run**  
You never **count** your **money** when you're **sittin'** at the **table**  
There'll be **time** e-nough for **countin'**, **when** the dealin's **done**

/ C - F C / F C - G / 1st / CF C G C /

/ D - G D / G D - A / 1st / DG D A D /