

The Gambler

D G D
On a warm summer's evenin', on a train bound for nowhere

A
I met up with a gambler, we were both too tired to sleep

D G D
So we took turns starin' out the window at the darkness

G G A D
'Til boredom overtook us, and he began to speak

D G D
He said "Son, I've made a life out of readin' peoples faces

A
And knowin' what their cards were by the way they held their eyes

D G D
And if you don't mind me sayin', I can see you're out of aces

G D A D
For a taste of your whiskey, I'll give you some advice"

D G D
So I handed him my bottle, and he drank down my last swallow

A
Then he bummed a cigarette, and asked me for a light

D G D
And the night got deathly quiet, and his face lost all expression

G D A D
Said, "if you're gonna play the game, boy, ya gotta learn to play it right"

D G D
You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em

G D A
Know when to walk away, and know when to run

D Em/A D G D
You never count your money, when you're sittin' at the table

G D A D
There'll be time enough for countin', when the dealin's done

(key change)

Every gambler knows, that the secret to survivin'
Is knowin' what to throw away, and knowin' what to keep
Cause every hand's a winner, and every hands a loser
And the best that you can hope or is to die in your sleep

And when he'd finished speakin', he turned back towards the window
Crushed out his cigarette, and faded off to sleep

And somewhere in the darkness, the gambler he broke even
But in his final words, I found an ace that I could keep

(chorus twice)