

ASSIGNMENTS

When I wrote, I would've liked to have sound for the pages, but I had to settle for describing him. In the Daddy-as-Elvis became a kind of wallpaper to set this story against. He was the kickoff conflict, the inciting incident that was more colorful than starting out with Aunt Clare's phone call. At the time, I thought that was okay because the generations that are reading are hardly aware of Elvis.

But I see that older readers (us), reviewing online, feel there's a good deal missing from the story because I didn't put more Elvis in it. You could play "Love Me Tender" and "Ain't Nuthin' But a Hound Dog" for your students and let them Google Elvis, get a sense of what an iconic figure he still is for many of us. No doubt they can draw comparisons to some of their favorite artists.

Perhaps you have a few eager Elvis impersonators in your class!