

# Readin', Rightin', Rt. 23

Dwight Yoakam

They learned reading, writing, Route 23  
To the jobs that laid waiting in those cities' factories  
They didn't know that that old highway  
Would lead them to a world of misery Have you ever been down Kentucky way,  
Say south of Preston Firs,  
Have you ever been up in a holler,  
Have you ever heard  
A mountain man cough his life away  
Digging that black coal in those dark mines, those dark mines,  
If you had, you might just understand  
The reason that they left it all behind 'Cuz, they learned reading, writing, Route 23  
To the jobs that laid waiting in those cities' factories  
They learned reading, writing, roads to the north  
To the luxury and comfort a coal miner can't afford They thought reading, writing, Route 23  
Ah, would take them to the good life they had never seen  
They didn't know that that old highway  
Would lead them to a world of misery

Have you ever seen them put the kids in the car  
After work on Friday night  
Pull up in a holler about two a.m.  
See the lights still burning bright  
Yeah, those mountain folks sat up that late  
To hold those little grand kids in their arms, in their arms  
Yet, I'm proud to say that I've been blessed  
And touched by their sweet hillbilly charms They learned reading, writing, Route 23  
To the jobs that laid waiting in those cities' factories  
They learned reading, writing, roads to the north  
To the luxury and comfort a coal miner can't afford  
They thought reading, writing, Route 23  
Ah, would take them to the good life they had never seen  
They didn't know that that old highway  
Would lead them to a world of misery Yeah, it turns out that that old highway  
Will lead you to a world of misery

Lyrics provided by

<https://damnllyrics.com/>