

Ode to the Space Shuttle

A dark bunker under the Kennedy Space Centre.

An ancient coffee urn boils. A thunderous roar from Cape Canaveral.

Enter three men who definitely remember the Sixties.....

NASA boffin : Since '81 the Shuttle hath flew'd

JPL boffin: Each mission, five to seven crewed

USAF pilot (retired): Atlantis flies! Last time, last time!

NASA boffin: Round about the Earth we'd go

Into space, kit we'd throw

A load of four tonnes, to geostationary orbit

A billion English pounds to launch it

It sheltered Galileo, ISS and a dock to Mir

Twice it claimed, those we held dear

All: When Hubble was trouble we launched the Shuttle

Fire burned, now ships we'll scuttle

JPL boffin: The Shuttle has a giant tank

Which solid rocket boosters flank

Many Newtons launch the beast

Thirty four point six, million at least

At 380 clicks the Space Station be

Where the Shuttle be speedin' Mach twenty three

It feels some heat in re-entreee

It's temperature reacheth fifteen hundred degrees

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