

Bob Dylan

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Dylan was born Robert Allen Zimmerman in Duluth, Minnesota, on May 24, 1941. In high school, he started his own rock bands. At university, he switched to folk music and took the name “Dylan,” after poet Dylan Thomas.

In 1960, Dylan went to New York City. He wrote folk songs and sang in folk clubs and coffee houses. He recorded his first album in 1962. His next two albums, in 1963, made him the most popular singer/songwriter of the 1960s protest movement. People were protesting the Vietnam War and issues like racial injustice.

In 1963, he became involved with Joan Baez, a famous folksinger. For two years, he wrote many of the songs she sang. He also performed at her concerts and gained new fans.

In 1964, Dylan began experimenting with different kinds of music. His 1964 album was more personal and less about protest. In 1965, he started to use an electric guitar, which upset some of his fans. His 1965 album included the now-famous rock classic “Like a Rolling Stone.” A 1969 album was based on country music.

In 1973, he acted in a movie and wrote the music for it. The next year, he toured with his band and made his first No. 1 album.

In 1977, Dylan and his wife divorced. In 1979, Dylan became a born-again Christian and his next album reflected his new faith. This musical phase lasted only a few years. In the 1980s, he began touring again and released several successful albums. In 1989, he was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Dylan continues to write songs and perform. His 1997 rock album *Time Out of Mind* is one of his most popular albums. He has won several Grammy Awards and an Academy Award for Best Original Song for the 2000 movie *Wonder Boys*.

Pre-Reading Warm Up Questions ☀

1. What is your favorite kind of music? Who is your favorite singer?
2. What makes a singer become popular? (List at least four different factors.)
3. Have you heard of Bob Dylan? Do you know any of his songs?
4. Why do you think many famous actors and performers change their names? How do you think they choose their new names?
5. When did the Vietnam War take place?



COMPREHENSION 📖

A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.

1. Bob Dylan started his first rock band in New York City.
2. Dylan started playing folk music when he was in university.
3. Dylan supported the Vietnam War.
4. Dylan’s religious music lasted many years.
5. Dylan won an Academy Award for his acting.

B. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

1. What was Bob Dylan's birth name? How did he choose his new name?
2. What kind of music did Dylan write in the 1960's?
3. How did Dylan's involvement with Joan Baez affect his career?
4. How did Dylan's fans react when he started to use an electric guitar?
5. What caused Dylan's music to change in the late 1970's and early 1980's?
6. List four different kinds of music Dylan has written and performed throughout his career.
7. In what way was Dylan recognized for his work in 1989?
8. Which of Dylan's songs won an Academy Award?



DISCUSS 

1. Why do you think Bob Dylan became so popular in the 1960's?
2. Do you think popular songwriters always have good voices?
3. Listen to some of Bob Dylan's songs. Do you like his voice?
4. Bob Dylan has been a popular singer/songwriter for over 40 years. What other singers and bands have remained popular for so long?
5. Listen to Bob Dylan's famous song 'Blowin' in the Wind and discuss the lyrics with your classmates. (You can find the lyrics on the Internet.)

VOCABULARY REVIEW 

A. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ 1. famous | a. try something new |
| _____ 2. switch | b. put in a position or place |
| _____ 3. album | c. travel |
| _____ 4. protest | d. stage of development, period of time |
| _____ 5. injustice | e. change |
| _____ 6. gain | f. collection of songs |
| _____ 7. fan | g. show |
| _____ 8. experiment | h. well known |
| _____ 9. upset | i. religion |
| _____ 10. classic | j. oppose strongly, fight against something |
| _____ 11. tour | k. supporter, admirer |
| _____ 12. reflect | l. having a high quality or value |
| _____ 13. faith | m. get, win, obtain |
| _____ 14. phase | n. bother, make angry |
| _____ 15. inducted | o. unfairness |

B. Choose the right word from the left column above to complete the following sentences. (You may have to change the verb tense or pluralize a noun.)

1. Last year we went to Mexico. Next summer we plan to _____ Europe.
2. Many people are going to _____ the government's increase in taxes.
3. He is going through a very difficult _____ right now, but that is quite normal for many teenagers.
4. Many famous hockey players have been _____ into the Sports Hall of Fame.
5. The _____ in the stadium shouted loudly and happily when their soccer team won the final game.

ANSWER KEY

Please note:

The reading for this topic is also available in full-page format at the end of the lesson (page 4).

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

- 1-4. Individual answer
5. The Vietnam War took place from 1957-1975.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

A. True or False

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. F

B. Written Answers

1. Bob Dylan's birth name was Robert Allan Zimmerman. He chose his new name based on the poet Dylan Thomas.
2. During the 1960's, Dylan wrote folk songs largely about war protest. In 1965, he started to use an electric guitar, and in 1969, he wrote an album based on country music.
3. Dylan's involvement with Joan Baez gained him new fans.
4. Some of Dylan's fans were upset when he started using an electric guitar.
5. During this time, Dylan and his wife divorced and soon after he became a born-again Christian. His music reflected his new faith.
6. Dylan has written and performed rock music, country music, folk music and music for film.
7. In 1989, Dylan was recognized for his work by being inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.
8. Dylan's song for the 2000 movie *Wonder Boys* won him an Academy Award for Best Original Song.

VOCABULARY REVIEW

A. Match the words

- | | | | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 1. h | 2. e | 3. f | 4. j | 5. o | 6. m | 7. k | 8. a |
| 9. n | 10. l | 11. c | 12. g | 13. i | 14. d | 15. b | |

B. Choose the right word

- | | | | | |
|---------|------------|----------|-------------|---------|
| 1. tour | 2. protest | 3. phase | 4. inducted | 5. fans |
|---------|------------|----------|-------------|---------|

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