

# BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

**Bob Dylan**

## **Glossary**

Allow- to give

Anthem- song of praise

Blow- to move along as current of air

Banned- prohibited

Cannon- large heavy gun

Exist- continue to live

Pretend- act

## **PROFILE**

### **Key points**

- Gives a suitable title
- Write effective introduction and conclusion
- Use proper linkers to connect the ideas
- Use all the given hints with correct language
- Use appropriate descriptive words

**Prepare a profile of Bob Dylan, using the given hints.**

Birth : May24, 1941  
Place of birth :Minnesota,USA  
Birth Name :Robert AllanZimmerman  
Fame :Song Writer,,singer, artist and writer  
Awards :grammy Award in 1973&1980,Nobelprize for Literature in 2016

### **BOB DYLAN**

Bob Dylan was born on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1941. He was born at Minnesota in USA. His name at the time of birth is Robert Allan Zimmerman. He is famous as a singer, song writer, artist and a writer. He won the Grammy Award in 1973 and in 1980. He is the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016.

### **THEME OF THE POEM (reference to teachers and students)**

Bowin' in the wind is a famous song written by famous American singer, artist and composer Bob Dylan. This is a protest song sung by him. It was written in a mood to make aware the people of the violation of freedom, peace and disharmony. The poet was restless due to the violation of human rights and the indifferent attitude of people towards the crucial problems confronts the society. He exhorts the people

to refrain from conflicts and stop waging war in the name of insignificant things. He felt that peace, harmony and unity were absent in the society and turned his attention to restore them. This situation forced him to compose this poem which became a popular anthem in the civil rights movement in America in 1960s.

## **FIGURE OF SPEECH:**

Different types of figures of speech are used in poetry to add to the beauty and charm of the poem.

### **1. SIMILE**

A simile is a direct comparison of two unlike things using the words "like" or "as."

Visions sprang like poppy

### **11. METAPHOR**

A metaphor is a direct comparison between two unlike things or ideas stating that the one is other or does the action of the other.

## **III. ALLITERATION**

Alliteration is the repetition of words beginning with the same consonant in a line.

Seas- sail

Sleeps-sand

## **IV. ASSONANCE**

Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in different words of the same line. That means same vowel sound is repeatedly used in more than one word in a line, the position of the syllable having this vowel should also be same in these words

## **V.PERSONIFICATION**

It gives human qualities or things to in animate things or objects

## **VI IMAGES**

Imagery is the name given to the elements in a poem that spark off the senses. Despite "image" being a synonym for "picture", images need not be only visual; any of the five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell) can respond to what a poet writes.

### **1. Auditory**

**Cry, answer, wind**

### **2. Visual**

**Sky, mountain, cannon balls, sea**

### **3. Olfactory**

### **4. Tactile**

### **5. Gustatory**

**Guidelines for writing the appreciation of a poem. Following points should include in the appreciation of a poem.**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Name of the poem and poet |  |
| Theme of the poem         |  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Rhyming words  |  |
| Rhyme scheme   |  |
| Alliteration   |  |
| Assonance  |  |
| Figure of speech (poetic devices)<br>simile,<br>metaphor,<br>personification |  |
| Images(visual,<br>auditory,<br>gustatory,<br>tactile<br>,olfactory           |  |
| Messages conveyed in the poem  |  |
| Conclusion<br>(Evaluation of the poem)                                       |  |

### **APPRECIATION OF POEM**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Title:               | APPRECIATION OF ( <u>Name of the poem</u> )  |
| Introduction:        | ( <u>Name of the poem</u> ) is one of the most celebrated poems of the renowned----- poet  |
| Theme:               | ( <u>Name of the poet</u> ).The poem deals with ( <u>write the theme of the poem</u> ).The poem appeals to the mind of the readers with its rich imagery. The poet tries to convey the following ideas through beautiful lines   |
| Personal opinion:    | ( <u>Write the summary/ main theme of the poem here</u> )  |
| Poetic devices used: | The poet used different types of poetic devices which adds to the beauty and meaning of the poem.(quote the lines and explain each, rhyming words rhyme scheme, alliteration, assonance , personification. Figures of speech, (simile, metaphor,)<br><br>imagery ( auditory, visual, olfactory, gustatory and tactile with examples) |
| Conclusion           | This poem is widely read because of its beauty   |

## **APPRECIATION OF THE POEM**

Blowin' in the Wind is a song composed by Bob Dylan, the famous American song writer and artist. It has been written as a protest song which poses a series of rhetorical questions about peace, war and humanity. The singer creates highly motivating and inspiring mood that turned out to be a marching song of the oppressed. The attitude of the poet is reflected in the refrain. This is a beautiful poem which talks of the genuine problems of political discourses and the poet raises social issues of the people to fight for justice.

He appeals to the people to address these burning issues which confront the society like oppression, war and human right violation in a befitting manner. The poet also talks of indifferent attitude of people to the major issues of society. He was apprehensive of the callous approach of people to these crucial issues. So their peaceful life is disrupted and free life cannot be restored in this unpleasant situation. These grueling issues dishearten and bring a lot of unspeakable hardships to them. The poet firmly believes that people should turn their keen attention to eradicate injustice, inequality and denial of freedom and should establish unrestrained life in the society.

The poet says that injustice may be as firm as mountains but it can be washed out to the sea, if the oppressed stands united. The oppressors cannot turn a deaf ear to the song of the protest. Change is imminent and inevitable.

A man, a dove, the mountain, the sea, and cannon balls are the images used by the poet to evoke senses in the poem. Man symbolizes the people who face injustice and hope for justice. Mountain represents the rigidity of life; it reminds us of

peace and harmony of life. Dove is an emblem of peace and reminds us of the enduring struggle for harmony and equality. Sea represents change and true freedom that slowly erodes the rigidity of mountains. The poet uses images such as cannon balls flying and white doves add to the beauty and charm of the poem immensely. These qualities make the poem more appealing and enchanting.

## **Let's revisit and enjoy the poem**

1. What does the word 'roads' refer to here?

The word 'roads' refers to the life experiences.

2. Do these questions given here demand a specific answer? What do you call such questions?

No, these questions do not demand a specific answer. We call such questions open ended questions

3. Why does the writer say that the answer is blowing in the wind?

Answer is known to all and it is everywhere.

4. How are the questions about the mountain related to the other two questions in stanza 2?

Mountain symbolizes ego. The poet says that one day or the other, all humans will have to face the same difficult situation.

5. How may be the 'people' and 'man' referred to in stanza 2? What is the attitude of the writer towards them?

Here 'people' represents a group who are downtrodden. Man represents the modern man who pretends not to see the sufferings of the poor.

6. Pick out the lines from the song that refer to the denial of civil right.



...how many times can a man turn his head and pretend that he just doesn't see?

How many ears must one man have before he can hear people cry?

7. What attitude of the people is reflected in the refrain, 'The answer is blow in in the wind?

indifference of the people.

8. How many questions are there in the first stanza? What are they?

Three questions. How many roads must a man walk before you call him a man? How many seas must a white dove sail before she sleeps in the sand? How many times must the cannon balls fly before they are forever banned?

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