

Review and Assignments based on Victers Online Class on 28/09/2020, Monday 11.30 am
‘Blowin’ in the Wind’ by Bob Dylan, Episode - 3

Class: 10

Subject: English

Unit: 2

Work Sheet: 10

Topic: Blowin’ in the Wind

Previous Assignments based on the class on Victers dated 22/09/2020 ‘Blowin’ in the Wind’ by Bob Dylan, Episode – 2 is here check your answers with these possible answers.

Now read the statements below and say whether they are ‘True’ or ‘False’. If false correct the statements.
 Corrected Statements

- 1) ‘Blowin’ in The Wind is not a song of love. It is a song of protest and an anti-war song.
- 2) Bob Dylan is speaking against war, not for war.
- 3) ‘Roads’ stands for ‘life experiences’.
- 4) Man needs a lot of experiences before he is called a man.
- 5) White dove in the stanza is a symbol of peace and freedom.
- 6) Bob Dylan is speaking of the hardships the oppressed might suffer before attaining freedom.
- 7) ‘White dove’ sleeping in the sand’ is a symbol. It implies the quest for freedom and peace.
- 8) Bob Dylan says that war must be stopped.
- 9) ‘Cannon balls’ stands for weapons which are suggestive of war.
- 10) Bob Dylan believes that the answers are everywhere.

Based on the statements given above write a paraphrase of the 1st stanza.

‘Blowin’ in the wind’ - An Anthem of Civil Rights

‘Blowin’ in the Wind’ is song written and composed by Bob Dylan, the American singer, song writer, artist and writer. It is a song of protest and an anti-war song. The poet presents the song in the form of rhetorical questions. He uses the image ‘road’ which stands for one’s life experience. He says that a man needs a lot of experiences before he is called a man. He also uses the image of a ‘white dove’ which in turn symbolises peace and freedom. So the white dove has to sail many seas before it could rest/sleep on the sand. Sleeping on the sand implies the quest for freedom and peace. He asks how long war should be continued before it is banned for ever. The image ‘cannon balls is suggestive of war. The poet is strongly against war and exhorts that war must be stopped. Finally in the ending couplets, he says that the answers to these questions are everywhere and one should have a mins to listen to it and respond.

Read the 2nd stanza of the poem ‘Blowin’ in the Wind’ and answer the following questions

1. How is the question about the mountain related to the other two questions in Stanza 2?

Ans: Mountain symbolizes ego. One day or the other, all human beings has to face the same predicament.

2. Who may be the ‘people’ and ‘man’ referred to in Stanza 2? What is the attitude of the writer towards them?

Ans: People represent a group which lacks a voice and space in the society. Man represents the modern man who pretends not to see the sufferings around.

3. Pick out lines from the song that refer to the denial of civil rights.

Ans: Yes, and how many times must a man look up

Before he can see the sky?

Yes, and how many ears must one man have

Before he can hear people cry?

4. What attitude of the people is reflected in the refrain, ‘The answer is blowin’ in the wind.’

Ans: Indifference of the people.

Review and Assignments based on Victers Online Class on 28/09/2020

Dear students,

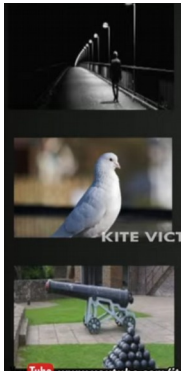
Did you watch the English class today? (28/09/2020). If not, [Click here](#) to watch the video. After watching the class and reading the 3rd stanza of the poem and the summary given below try the following assignments.

Let's take a Recap:

Hope you also watched the presentation of the 3rd stanza of the song 'Blowing in the Wind'. This song was composed by the famous American Song writer, singer Bob Dylan. Today's class covered the 3rd stanza of the poem. The class started with a recap of the 1st and 2nd stanza. 'Blowin' in the Wind is a song of protest against injustice. It is an anti-war song. It is an anthem for the American Civil Rights Movements. The poem is presented in the form of rhetorical questions. Three questions in each stanza.

Now let's discuss:

Summary of Stanza 1



The poet says that a man must have many experiences before he is called a man. He also says that it may take a long journey of many years for a dove to find a safer shore for safer rest. The poet makes it clear that wars bring about destruction and hence it must be banned. He is arguing for peace, freedom and security.

പാതകൾ ജീവിതാനുഭവങ്ങളെയും, വെള്ളരിപ്രാവ് സമാധാനത്തേയും സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. പീരങ്കി ഉണ്ടകൾ യുദ്ധത്തിന്റെ പ്രതീകമാണ്. യുദ്ധം നിർത്തലാക്കുകയും, സാമാധാനവും, സുരക്ഷിതത്വവും സ്ഥാപിക്കുകയാണ് വേണ്ടത് എന്ന് കവി ഇവിടെ വാദിക്കുന്നു

Summary of Stanza 2

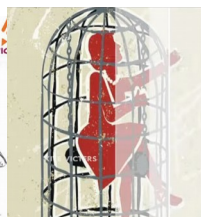


In the second stanza, the poet expresses his grief over the attitude of the people who do not pay attention to the problems around. He asks how long a mountain can exist before it is washed to the sea. The mountain is used as a symbol of ego, pride, oppression, domination etc. The sea stands for the powerful force of protest that can bring about change. Bob Dylan strongly criticises people who are not responsive to the injustice around.

പർവ്വതം അധികാര ശക്തിയുടെ സൂചനയാണ്. സമുദ്രവും തിരമാലകളും അടിച്ചമർത്തപ്പെട്ടവന്റെ ശബ്ദവുമാണ്. അനിതിക്കെതിരെ പ്രതികരിക്കാത്ത, പ്രധിഷ്ഠിക്കാത്ത ജന സമൂഹത്തെയാണ് കവി വിമർശിക്കുന്നത്.

Summary of Stanza 3

Before reading the third stanza lets watch a few images



What do these images suggest? All these images shows injustice and cruel oppression. Will you react to such instances of injustice? Suppose you witnessed such an incident

Write down and instance of how you or anyone you know reacted against a deed of injustice. (This is meant for personal writing)

Here are a few words taken from the 3rd stanza. Go through it and recreate the 3rd stanza. Try

answer	people cry	deaths
	man look up	
see the sky		can hear
	people have died	

Yes, and how many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?
Yes, and how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
Yes, and how many deaths will it take till he knows
That too many people have died?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

The 3rd stanza also have the same theme as the previous stanzas. There are three rhetorical questions in this stanza also. The poet asks how long will it take for a man to look up with hope at the sky awaiting the day of freedom and enjoy freedom and peace. Here 'look up' implies 'to quest for the brighter days ahead.' The sky is a symbol of freedom and equality. People cry because they are deprived of freedom. They are disappointed to see the injustice and oppression around and the violation of human rights. The people turn a deaf ear to these cries. He also wonders why the people are indifferent to the cries of the oppressed and suffering. How many more people have to sacrifice their lives for peace and freedom to finally be established. Yes the answer is everywhere but no one pays any attention to it. The poet is probably trying to remind us that it is meaningless to look for someone else to find an answer to our questions or to find a solution for our problems. We should take up the responsibility and work for it. If we lazily wait for someone else to find a solution for our problems, they will always remain unsolved. The poet criticises man's indifference to problems.

The New Words / Glossary (Refer the glossary while reading the poem)

sky	-	a symbol of freedom and peace (ആകാശം സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തിന്റെയും സമാധാനത്തിന്റെയും പ്രതീകം)
people cry	-	the suffering of the oppressed (അചിച്ഛിതപ്പെട്ടവന്റെ ദുഃഖം)
man	-	The authorities, people in power. (അധികാരികൾ)
deaths	-	sacrifice (ജീവിത ബലിതർപ്പണം)

Read the 3rd stanza of the poem 'Blowin' in the Wind' and answer the following questions

1. Yes, and how many times must a man look up

Before he can see the sky? What does this question imply?

Ans: The poet is wondering how long will it take for a man to look up with hope at the sky awaiting the day of freedom and enjoy freedom and peace. Here 'look up' implies 'to quest for the brighter days ahead.' The sky is a symbol of freedom and equality.

2. What do you think of people cry? What does it suggest?

Ans: People cry because they are deprived of freedom. They are disappointed to see the injustice and oppression around and the violation of human rights. The people turn a deaf ear to these cries.

3. Yes, and how many ears must one man have

Before he can hear people cry? What does the poet mean?

Ans: The question implies that there are people who turn a deaf ear to the cries of miseries and the demand for freedom. He wonders whether two ears are not enough to hear the cries.

4. Who is 'he' referred to in the stanza?

Ans: Here 'he' refers to the ruler or the authority or any one who does not want to pay attention to the sufferings of the oppressed.

5. Yes, and how many deaths will it take till he knows

That too many people have died? What idea do you get from the lines?

Ans: Wars usually bring about death and destruction. But the rulers and the authorities still don't understand that war is pointless. The poet wants wars to be stopped for ever and peace to be established.

6. Write an appreciation of the poem 'Blowin' in the Wind'

Blowin' in the Wind by Bob Dylan

Bob Dylan is an American singer and song-writer. His writings have political as well as literary influences of incidents of his time – the Civil Rights Movement of 1960s. The poem, 'Blowin' in the Wind' was the anthem of the Movement.

In this poem, the poet asks nine questions to which no specific answers are given or expected. All the answers are known to all and blowing in the wind. People only need open their eyes and ears to catch the answers.

The poet asks first "how many roads must a man walk down before you call him a man?" How much a man should experience in life or how long a man should endure in life before he is recognized as a human being? He asks, how many seas a white dove should sail before it can peacefully rest or sleep finally in the sand. White doves are symbol of peace, and when are they going to get really the symbolized peace? The question, "how many times the cannon balls must fly before they are banned forever" is similar to the second question. White doves and banning of cannon balls are signals of the arrival peace and end of wars and conflicts; but when will they all be realized?

How long a mighty authority as huge and strong as a mountain can exist in front of equally or more powerful ocean of protests of common people who are deprived of their fundamental rights? How long the people of a nation can be kept under slavery? How long can the rulers or common people pretend to be blind, deaf and dumb? How many times a man should look up to see the sky, how many ears he should have to hear the cry of the down-trodden, and how many people should die before he realizes that many have already died? The people in authority should see and hear the reality and the people who are subjected should rise to the occasion to protest against the injustices.

These questions are the best example of the literary device Rhetorical question. The poet talks about the answers which are available or known easily to whoever actually wants them. He keeps on asking questions and talks about answers repeating the same lines "the answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind, the answer is blowin' in the wind" without actually answering, and creating another poetic device namely Refrain.

Dear students, do these Assignments and send it to my Whatsapp No. 9846082087

Thank You & Have a Nice Time
