

A black and white portrait of Bob Dylan, showing his characteristic wild, curly hair and a serious expression. He is wearing a dark jacket over a white collared shirt. The background is a plain, light color.

Bob Dylan

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May 24th, 1941 - Present

Early Life

- Born on May 24th, 1941 in Duluth, Minnesota as Robert Allen Zimmerman
- Raised in a Jewish Family
- Lived with his mother, Beatrice, father, Abram, and younger brother, David
- Moved to Hibbing at 6 years old where he truly discovered his passion

Education

- Attended Hibbings High School
- Formed several bands during this time
- Graduated in 1959 and began to attend the University of
Minnesota
- Here he played country and folk music in local cafés

The Start of His Career

- Recording contract with Columbia Records
- Came out with the album *Bob Dylan*
- *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan* contained one of his most famous folk songs, “Blowin’ in the Wind” which demonstrated his lyrical genius



The 1960s

- Politically fueled lyrics sought for change
- Strong activist
- *The Times They Are A-Changin'* (1964)
- Involved with Joan Baez, an American activist icon and singer
- Only together for two years, but boosted each other's careers



The 1960s

- Dylan found himself at the forefront of American activism and protest
- Popularised “finger pointing songs”
 - Raised an issues or cause until people took notice
- This changed the topic of his music, showing he could write and sing about many things
- Started branching away from folk with a half electric album that he received a lot of backlash for

The 1960s

- July 1966 - Nearly fatal motorcycle crash with a year long recovery time
 - Changed his music greatly
- Continued to reinvent himself over and over again

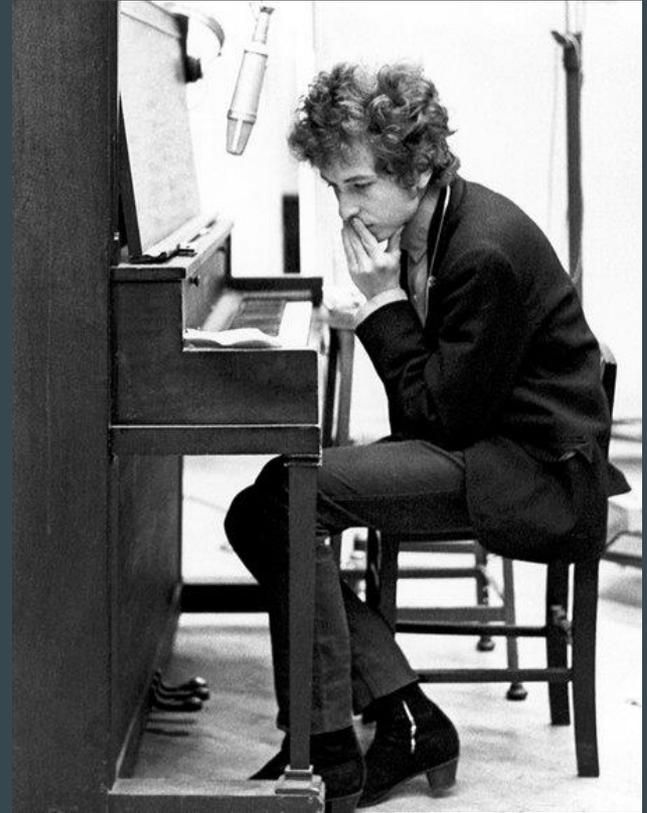


The 1970s

- Started off poorly, but picked up when he was in *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*
- Created “Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWkTR4S25ro>

- Had his first full tour since the accident in ‘66 in 1974 with the Band



The 1970s

- Created many great and popular songs with the Band
- *Planet Waves*, *Blood On The Tracks*, and *Desire*
- “Hurricane” is a very important song for Dylan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGMSfiH850o>



The 1980s

- Toured all over with other rock artists
- Released 9 albums
- Inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame
- Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1989



1990s Onward

- Dylan released *World Gone Wrong* and *Time Out of Mind*
- Toured all over the world and played special events
- “Things Have Changed”
- Has written books about his eventful and inspirational life
- *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*
- Also creates visual art, shown in his painting *Two Sisters*



Significance

- A prominent leader of the Civil Rights Era, anti-war protests, injustice movements, and many other revolutions
- Extremely powerful lyrics rival Shakespeare's mastery of the English language
- Won a Nobel Peace Prize for Literature in 2016 because his lyrics were genius
- Inducted into several exclusive halls of fame, won many awards, and was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom
- Inspired other artists to speak out about what they believe in and use their words to not only tell stories, but be the change

Significance

“I am using Shakespeare not as a parallel to Dylan in some devious way to imply that Dylan is as great a writer as Shakespeare, but rather to shine a light on understanding the importance of Dylan's contribution to literature. Because of the ways in which he has redefined what poetic literature is, he has often been called "the Shakespeare of our time." Like Shakespeare, he writes most of his work primarily to be heard and performed, not read”.

-SIMON MCASLAN

SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nr96LgGZbU0>

Significance

- He was included in the [Time 100: The Most Important People of the Century](#) where he was called "master poet, caustic social critic and intrepid, guiding spirit of the counterculture generation".
- In 2008, The Pulitzer Prize jury awarded him a special citation for "his profound impact on popular music and American culture, marked by lyrical compositions of extraordinary poetic power."
- President [Barack Obama](#) said of Dylan in 2012, "There is not a bigger giant in the history of American music."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRu66l3QI_U

Activity

Bob Dylan wrote many of his lyrics on political issues of the time so I want you to get into groups write a verse about modern politics to share out