

Song Analysis

Year 5-7

Next term you will be exploring the music genre of Folk Music, which is a worldwide phenomenon. To prepare you for this, you must first learn how to analyse music, including the lyrics.

In 1962, Bob Dylan wrote and recorded his hit song 'Blowin' in the Wind', though it wasn't popular until it was later recorded by another artist.

To analyse a song, you must consider the emotional depth of the lyrics, the themes and issues it introduces and its creative use of language.

Listen to the song while reading over a print out of the lyrics, which has been provided.

- Bob Dylan - Blowin' in the Wind (Audio) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMFj8uDubsE>

Now break up the lyrics into smaller sections and take a guess as to what you think they mean. For example, look at the first line:

**How many roads must a man walk down
Before you call him a man?**

What images does this line put in your mind? What do you think he meant when he wrote this? What emotions was it supposed to evoke in you? Who do you think the intended audience was?

Once you have analysed the whole song, step back and look at it as a whole.

Please answer the following questions:

1. What do the lyrics mean? (please quote the lyrics before writing your explanation)
2. What is the overall message of the song?
3. What was happening in the world when this song was written?
4. Who do you think the song was directed at?
5. Who re-recorded the original and made it popular?

EXTRA: Pick another song of your choice and analyse it the same way. See if you can answer the questions above about that song.