

The Times They Are A-Changin'  
Bob Dylan (1964)

Come \_\_\_\_\_ 'round people

Wherever you \_\_\_\_\_

And **admit** that the \_\_\_\_\_

Around you have grown

And accept it that soon

You'll be \_\_\_\_\_ to the bone

If your time to you is worth \_\_\_\_\_

And you better start \_\_\_\_\_

Or you'll \_\_\_\_\_ like a stone

For the times they are a-changin'

Come \_\_\_\_\_ and critics

Who \_\_\_\_\_ with your pen

And keep your eyes \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_ won't come again

And don't \_\_\_\_\_ too soon

For the wheel's still in \_\_\_\_\_

And there's no \_\_\_\_\_ who

That it's \_\_\_\_\_

For the loser now

Will be \_\_\_\_\_ to win

For the times they are a-changin'

Come \_\_\_\_\_, congressmen

Please \_\_\_\_\_ **the call**

Don't stand in the \_\_\_\_\_

Don't block up the hall

For he that gets \_\_\_\_\_

Will be he who has **stalled**

The battle outside \_\_\_\_\_

Will soon \_\_\_\_\_ your windows

And \_\_\_\_\_ your walls

For the times they are a-changin'

Come mothers and fathers

\_\_\_\_\_ the land

And don't criticize

What you can't \_\_\_\_\_

Your sons and your daughters

Are beyond your \_\_\_\_\_

Your old road is rapidly \_\_\_\_\_

Please get out of the new one

If you can't \_\_\_\_\_ your hand

For the times they are a-changin'

The \_\_\_\_\_ it is drawn

The **curse** it is **cast**

The \_\_\_\_\_ one now

Will later be fast

As the \_\_\_\_\_ now

Will later be past

The order is rapidly \_\_\_\_\_

And the first one now

Will later be last

For the times they are a-changin'

namin', fadin', savin', swimmin', tellin',  
**ragin'**, agin', senators, doorway, **rattle**,  
Throughout, command, waters, sink, gather,  
writers, wide, spin, **heed**, shake,  
understand, lend, **roam**, chance, speak,  
later, hurt, line, present, slow, **drenched**,  
**prophesize**

📖 During the same times of this song being recorded, The Vietnam War (1954-1975) was **escalating**. This war was a conflict between the communist North Vietnam versus South Vietnam and the USA. The Vietnam War is still **dubbed** as one of the **costliest** and **futile** wars in history; over 2 million civilians on both sides of Vietnam, around 250,000 Vietnam soldiers, and over 58,000 US military personnel paid their lives in this war. The pressures for changes in the US's political **stance** in global affairs were rising.

On November 22, 1963, United States president John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Despite where the song drew its initial inspiration, it has a universal and timeless impact. If we look at the '**protest**' element of the song, the world still needs **societal** participation in bringing much-needed changes into the world. On the other hand, 'change' is **inevitable**. Things that change for the better too shall pass at some point. On a grand scheme of things,

'the inevitability of change is the only thing that does not change.'

1. \_\_\_\_\_ increasing rapidly.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ costing a lot; expensive.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ incapable of producing any useful result; pointless.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the attitude of a person or organization towards something; a standpoint.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ a statement or action expressing disapproval of or objection to sth
6. \_\_\_\_\_ relating to society or social relations.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ certain to happen; unavoidable.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ confess to be true or to be the case.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ joining a cause; you pay attention to it and do what they suggest
10. \_\_\_\_\_ a solemn utterance intended to invoke a supernatural power to inflict harm or punishment on someone or something.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ a mould used to make an object by casting.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ make or cause to make a rapid succession of short, sharp knocking sounds.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ feel or express violent uncontrollable anger.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ give an unofficial name or nickname to.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ move about or travel aimlessly or unsystematically, especially over a wide area.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ wet thoroughly; soak.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ to predict or foretell.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ stop or cause to stop making progress.

➤ Explain those lines:

1. *The curse it is cast*

2. *Please heed the call*

3. *And accept it that soon*

*You'll be drenched to the bone*

4. *For the loser now will be later to win*



Bob Dylan wrote this song in 1963 and this was the era of the PEACE and LOVE generation... Free spirits that would NEVER be **tethered** and controlled by something like the evils of Nazism, Communism or Socialism. In the 60s, Dylan could see that the times were changing, people had changed: and he favored change. Remember this was written not long after World War II. It was a time of the youth in this country being **adamantly** against a war, **divisiveness** hate and injustices like racial discrimination. Young people in the 60s, if you think back to James Dean, Steve mcqueen and the young Marlon Brando: were a rebellious and outspoken **bunch** who were inspired to take the world by storm. If something was horribly wrong, they were out

there in a protest. These are the sons and daughters that were beyond parental command, as Dylan wrote. They were the children of the war-generation and they set out to fix what the people of the world in their parents'age group screwed up. They became proactive in their own right, to try to change the times for better; a better world for themselves, and a future for their own children. They knew (collectively, most of them wearing peace symbols around their necks) a change for unity, prosperity and peace was the New Order. When Dylan says "come gather round people", he is really speaking to the whole world, but more specifically to us in America, as world leaders to deluge the world with love, equality, our music singing praises to a free society; and a kumbaya attitude... Transforming a postwar world into a planet of peace. He is making a call for change that ALL better join the movement of the Peacemaker- Flower Children. The whole action of the 60s was about movements and protests, to right the wrongs

A kind of mantra in those days was 'don't trust anyone over 30'. This made the older generation sort of a **quasi-enemy**. They looked on the youth of the 60s as a bunch of **pot-smoking**, rock and roll or folk music; free- love, hippies. The people over 30 criticized this Peace-Love generation, and even did so in the Press; calling the **Baby Boomers degenerates** and losers.



Yes, he was right, the times were changing. I just wish that change had had less to do with **rampant** capitalism and religious fundamentalism and more to do with humanity, honesty and perhaps most of all, trying to be a decent sort of bloke in a world gone wrong.



Just under two years after he had written the song, Dylan did an interview with the English pop/rock/jazz/blues weekly, "Melody Maker" as said, "It was nothing to do with age or parents... This is what it was, maybe – a bitterness towards authority – the type of person who sticks his nose down and doesn't take you seriously, but expects you to take him seriously."

1. \_\_\_\_\_ tie (an animal) with a rope or chain so as to restrict its movement.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ in a way that suggests one will not be persuaded to change one's mind; firmly and **resolutely** (in an admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering manner).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ a tendency to cause disagreement or hostility between people.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ a group of people.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ apparently but not really; seemingly.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ inhalation of smoke or vapors released by heating the flowers, leaves, or extracts of cannabis
7. \_\_\_\_\_ /dɪ'dʒɛn(ə)rət/ an immoral or corrupt person.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ a person born during a baby boom
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (especially of something unwelcome) flourishing or spreading unchecked.

➤ **"A-"** before a verb was a prefix quite common in 16th C. English. It is still, today, quite common in Appalachian English, in the US, which is where Dylan no doubt took his influence. It can mean "engaged in", as in "He's a-runnin! And fast!", or "She's a-birth, and there's no point in hoping she'll not." It can also mean "motion to, into", as in "I'm going a-long", "I'm going a-bout", "I'm going a-round", "I'm going a-breast".