

## Blowin’ in the Wind

**Directions:** Read the lyrics to “Blowin’ in the Wind” and read the article from the library database entitled “antiwar movement,” then answer the questions that follow.

*The following **song lyrics** by Bob Dylan were written during the 1960s, a turbulent time in American history. Lyrics from BLOWIN’ IN THE WIND by Bob Dylan. Copyright © 1962; renewed 1990 by Special Rider Music.*

## Blowin’ in the Wind

- How many roads must a man walk down  
Before you call him a man?  
Yes, 'n' how many seas must a white dove sail  
Before she sleeps in the sand?
- 5 Yes, 'n' how many times must the cannon balls fly  
Before they're forever banned?  
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind,  
The answer is blowin' in the wind.
- How many times must a man look up  
10 Before he can see the sky?  
Yes, 'n' how many ears must one man have  
Before he can hear people cry?  
Yes, 'n' how many deaths will it take till he knows  
That too many people have died?
- 15 The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind,  
The answer is blowin' in the wind.
- How many years can a mountain exist  
Before it's washed to the sea?  
Yes, 'n' how many years can some people exist  
20 Before they're allowed to be free?  
Yes, 'n' how many times can a man turn his head,  
Pretending he just doesn't see?  
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind,  
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

—Bob Dylan

Lyrics from “Blowin’ in the Wind” by Bob Dylan Copyright © 1962; renewed 1990 by Special Rider Music

The following article entitled "antiwar movement" is from the library database resource *American History*. ABC-CLIO, 2013. Web. 3 Jan. 2013.

### **antiwar movement**

- 1 The antiwar movement of the 1960s grew out of discontent with the government and the status quo, as well as an increasing feeling that war, especially the war in Vietnam, was unjust.
  
- 2 The 1960s were a decade of tumultuous change in the United States. The civil rights movement and the emerging counterculture attracted many young Americans, who began to have a vision of a world without violence, hatred, or prejudice. They questioned the establishment and its support of the Vietnam War, which to them seemed to symbolize the struggle between the "haves" and the "have-nots."
  
- 3 Those attitudes, along with widespread anger at the United States' involvement in the war, led to a mass movement of people—students, writers, pacifists, clergy members, and even some disillusioned Vietnam veterans—who used demonstrations, parades, and sit-ins to force politicians to recognize that the war was unpopular. U.S. efforts to save South Vietnam from communism, the protesters claimed, was a dubious cause and not worth the loss of so many lives. On October 16, 1967, 120 antiwar demonstrators were arrested after a staged sit-in at the Oakland, California, draft induction center. Days later, on October 21, a massive demonstration against the war took place in Washington, D.C., when a spectrum of antiwar activists marched to the Pentagon. The March on the Pentagon was so large that troops of the 82nd Airborne Division were called in to protect the capital.

- 4 By the final months of 1967, polls showed that a majority of Americans felt that U.S. intervention in Vietnam was a mistake. At a time when the government was calling up 30,000 men a month to serve in the armed forces, draft resistance escalated, and people burned draft cards in open defiance. That same year, Martin Luther King Jr. incurred the ire of other civil rights leaders—who viewed President Lyndon B. Johnson as an ally—when he attacked the Vietnam War as a senseless drain on the United States' scarce spiritual and economic resources.
- 5 In May 1970, student resistance to the war sparked a disaster on the campus of Kent State University in Ohio. As young people had done on other campuses, students staged a protest at the Kent State reserve officers' training building. Ohio governor James Rhodes ordered the National Guard to the campus to impose order, but a volley of shots fired into a crowd killed four youths. The Kent State massacre provoked protests across the nation. The campuses of more than 400 colleges and universities were shut down by strikes, and nearly 100,000 protesters marched on Washington.
- 6 Members of the antiwar movement continued to condemn the war in Vietnam until the United States withdrew the last of its troops in 1973.

**Reference**

"antiwar movement." *American History*. ABC-CLIO, 2013. Web. 3 Jan. 2013.

**Answer the following questions using the song lyrics entitled "Blowin' in the Wind."**

1. In the song, "Blowin' in the Wind," which line is an example of alliteration?
  - A. "Yes, 'n' how many seas must a white dove sail before she sleeps in the sand?"
  - B. "The answer is blowin' in the wind"
  - C. "Yes, 'n' how many times must the cannon balls fly"
  - D. "How many times must a man look up before he can see the sky?"
  
2. In the song, "Blowin' in the Wind," what is the mood?
  - A. Nostalgic
  - B. Sorrowful
  - C. Bemused
  - D. Euphoric
  
3. In the description of the lyrics to the song, "Blowin' in the Wind," what does the word turbulent mean?
  - A. Chaotic
  - B. Fearful
  - C. Grim
  - D. Wry
  
4. The repetition of the last two lines of each stanza connotes the feeling of:
  - A. Power
  - B. Hopelessness
  - C. Duty
  - D. Individualism

5. Read this stanza from the lyrics of “Blowin’ in the Wind.”

How many times must a man look up  
Before he can see the sky?  
Yes, ‘n’ how many ears must one man have  
Before he can hear people cry?  
Yes, ‘n’ how many deaths will it take until he knows  
That too many people have died?  
The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind,  
The answer is blowin’ in the wind.

What rhetorical device does the author use in this stanza?

- A. Irony and metaphor
- B. Repetition and questioning
- C. Appeal to authority
- D. Use of historical allusion

**Answer the following questions using the text entitled "antiwar movement."**

1. In paragraph 4 of "antiwar movement," the phrase "incurred the ire of other civil rights leaders" means:
  - A. Attracted the anger of civil rights leaders
  - B. Supported the interest of civil rights leaders
  - C. Deflected the demonstrations of civil rights leaders
  - D. Reduced the criticism of civil rights leaders
  
2. According to the article, what was the reason the U.S. got involved in the Vietnam War?
  - A. To promote the Civil Rights Movement.
  - B. To force politicians to acknowledge the war was unpopular.
  - C. To stop the spread of communism
  - D. To achieve equality among the rich and the poor
  - E. C and D
  
3. In paragraph 5, James Rhodes' order to control the Kent State demonstrations resulted in:
  - A. Action by President Lyndon Johnson and civil rights leaders
  - B. Students agreeing to be drafted to serve in the Vietnam War
  - C. Further disillusionment of Vietnam War veterans
  - D. Strikes on campuses across the U.S.
  
4. Members of the "counterculture" included:
  - A. Civil Rights leaders
  - B. Politicians
  - C. Pacifists
  - D. Military personnel

5. How did the U.S. government protect the Pentagon in 1967?
- A. They called in a swat team.
  - B. They called 30,000 men to line up around the Pentagon.
  - C. They staged a counter-demonstration.
  - D. They ordered the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division to report to duty.

**Comparison of "Blowin' in the Wind" and "antiwar movement"**

**Answer the following questions comparing both passages.**

1. Why could the lyrics of "Blowin' in the Wind" be considered an anthem following the events at Kent State described in the article?
- A. The words used reflect a pessimistic view of people.
  - B. The words used reflect a questioning of patriotism.
  - C. The words reflect grief after the massacre at Kent State.
  - D. The words reflect the hopelessness of war.
2. What symbol in Dylan's lyrics represents the main issue of the counter culture movement in 1960s and 1970s?
- A. Mountains
  - B. Wind
  - C. Cannon balls
  - D. Dove
3. What line in the song "Blowin' in the Wind" is most likely referring to the Civil Rights movement?
- A. "Yes, 'n' how many years can some people exist before they're allowed to be free?"
  - B. "Yes, 'n' how many times must the cannon balls fly before they're forever banned?"
  - C. "Yes, 'n' how many times can a man turn his head, pretending he just doesn't see?"
  - D. A and C