

## Bob Dylan wins the Nobel Prize for Literature

### Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

a. Which five of these fields are Nobel Prizes?

- chemistry
- history
- mathematics
- music
- literature
- physics
- politics
- peace
- medicine
- business

b. Which three of these people have won a Nobel Prize?

- Barack Obama
- J K Rowling
- Nelson Mandela
- Queen Elizabeth II
- Mother Teresa

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

popular

album

tour

award

deserve

1. If you \_\_\_\_\_ something, it is right that you get it. (para 1)
2. If something is \_\_\_\_\_, many people like it. (para 3)
3. An \_\_\_\_\_ is a group of songs you can buy on a CD or download from the internet. (para 4)
4. When musicians \_\_\_\_\_, they perform in many different places. (para 4)
5. An \_\_\_\_\_ is a prize that is given to someone who has done something special. (para 5)

#### 3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. Where was Bob Dylan born?
2. When did he move to New York City?
3. When did he start to play electric guitar?
4. How many albums has he recorded?
5. How many records has he sold?
6. Where does he live?

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#### Bob Dylan wins the Nobel Prize for Literature

5 January, 2017

- 1 In October, 2016, singer-songwriter Bob Dylan won the Nobel Prize for Literature. The announcement surprised some people. But other people thought that Dylan deserved the prize for his music and poetry. As well as writing and performing music, Dylan is also an artist and a writer.
- 2 Robert Zimmerman was born in Duluth, Minnesota, USA in May, 1941 and is now 75 years old. As a young man, he changed his name to Bob Dylan because he liked the work of the Welsh poet and writer, Dylan Thomas. Bob Dylan became famous after moving to New York City in 1961 and he wrote many of his best-known songs there during the 1960s, including *Blowin' in the Wind* and *The Times They Are a-Changing*.
- 3 In the 1960s, Dylan was probably the most famous folk singer in the world with his guitar and harmonica but, in 1965, he did something that shocked many of his fans. He started to play electric guitar. This was popular with some people but many of his fans were angry about the change of style.
- 4 Dylan has recorded more than 30 albums and has sold more than 100 million records. He is still touring the world and playing live concerts. Since 1988, he has played at least 100 concerts a year and has played almost 3,000 live shows in that time. When he is not touring and performing in live concerts, Dylan lives in Malibu, California.
- 5 Apart from the Nobel Prize, Dylan has also won an Academy award (an Oscar). He has also won 12 Grammy awards (a prize given by the US Recording Academy to people who have been very successful in the music industry).

### 4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Bob Dylan has ...                               | a. ... since 1988.                                   |
| 2. Dylan is an artist and writer ...               | b. ... won the Nobel Prize for literature.           |
| 3. He changed his name to Dylan ...                | c. ... he has also won 12 Grammy awards.             |
| 4. Some of his fans were angry ...                 | d. ... because he liked the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas. |
| 5. He has performed more than 3,000 live shows ... | e. ... as well as a musician and songwriter.         |
| 6. In addition to the Nobel Prize, ...             | f. ... when he started to play electric guitar.      |

### 5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. million more records than hundred one
2. concerts at year least one a hundred
3. style change the of
4. songs of best-known many his
5. three almost thousand shows live
6. famous the world most in the singer folk

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#### 6 Two-word expressions

Complete the sentences using the expressions from the text.

best-known    music industry    folk singers    electric guitar    live shows    singer-songwriter

1. Bob Dylan made some of his fans angry when he started playing \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. He has played thousands of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. He has won 12 Grammy awards for his success in the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Dylan is one of the most famous \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.
5. Dylan writes and performs his own music – he is a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. He wrote many of his \_\_\_\_\_ songs in New York City in the 1960s.

#### 7 Vocabulary

Match the words from the text with their meanings.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. announcement | a. the way someone does something                                      |
| 2. perform      | b. a performance to an audience  |
| 3. harmonica    | c. an official statement   |
| 4. style        | d. to sing or play for other people                                    |
| 5. record       | e. to do a musical performance so that it can be copied electronically |
| 6. live         | f. a small musical instrument you play with your mouth                 |

#### 8 Discussion

- Do you think a folk singer like Bob Dylan should win the Nobel Prize for Literature? Why? Why not?

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#### KEY

#### 1 Warmer

- chemistry, literature, physics, peace, medicine
- Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa

#### 2 Key words

- deserve
- popular
- album
- tour
- award

#### 3 Find the information

- Duluth, Minnesota, USA
- 1961
- 1965
- more than 30
- more than 100 million
- Malibu, California

#### 4 Comprehension check

- b
- e
- d
- f
- a
- c

#### 5 Chunks

- more than one hundred million records
- at least one hundred concerts a year
- the change of style
- many of his best-known songs
- almost three thousand live shows
- the most famous folk singer in the world

#### 6 Two-word expressions

- electric guitar
- live shows
- music industry
- folk singers
- singer-songwriter
- best-known

#### 7 Vocabulary

- c
- d
- f
- a
- e
- b