“The Times They Are A-Changin’”
by Bob Dylan

Come gather ‘round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You’ll be drenched to the bone.
If your time to you
Is worth savin’
Then you better start swimmin’
Or you’ll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin’.

Come writers and critics
Who prophesize with your pen
And keep your eyes wide
The chance won’t come again
And don’t speak too soon
For the wheel’s still in spin
And there’s no tellin’ who
That it is namin’.
For the loser now
Will be later to win
For the times they are a-changin’.

Come senators, congressmen
Please heed the call
Don’t stand in the doorway
Don’t block up the hall
For he that gets hurt
Will be he who has stalled
There’s a battle outside
And it is ragin’.
It’ll soon shake your windows
And rattle your walls
For the times they are a-changin’.

Come mothers and fathers
Throughout the land
And don’t criticize
What you can’t understand
Your sons and your daughters
Are beyond your command
Your old road is
Rapidly agin’.
Please get out of the new one
If you can’t lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin’.

45  The line it is drawn
     The curse it is cast
     The slow one now
     Will later be fast
     As the present now

50  Will later be past
     The order is
     Rapidly fadin’.
     And the first one now
     Will later be last

55  or the times they are a-changin’.
1. In stanza 2 of the poem, what does the word *prophesize* mean?
   a. predict
   b. advertise
   c. deny
   d. entertain

Identify two lines from the poem that support your answer and elaborate on how they support the meaning of prophesize.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

2. What comparison does the writer make in the first stanza of the poem?
   a. He compares water to stone.
   b. He compares time to a statue.
   c. He compares adulthood to a skeleton.
   d. He compares change to a flood.

3. Which of the following best identifies the theme of the song?
   a. Most people find it easy to accept change.
   b. People in power will do anything to stay in power.
   c. Time moves more slowly than we expect it to.
   d. Those who do not accept change will be left behind.

Provide 2 pieces of text based evidence that support the theme you chose for this song.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

4. Which of the following phrases best describes the tone created by the use of language in this song?
   a. polite yet determined
   b. demanding yet humble
   c. joyful yet wary
   d. cautious yet confident
Choose two lines from the song that help illustrate the tone you chose in the above question. Be sure to elaborate how this evidence supports this tone.
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

5. Track the rhyme scheme throughout this song. Develop 2 stanzas of your own. In stanza one, discuss change that you see occurring all around you. In stanza two, discuss how you handle/deal with this change.
BE SURE TO…
• include some of your own comparisons
• implement the same rhyme scheme developed by Bob Dylan
• use descriptive language