

Music Lyrics Analysis Example by Mr. Bosma

1. Like A Rolling Stone by Bob Dylan

2 .Identify 4 different Figures of speech from the song lyrics below:

Once upon a time you dressed so fine
Threw the bums a dime in your prime, didn't you?
People call say 'beware doll, you're bound to fall'
You thought they were all kidding you
You used to laugh about
Everybody that was hanging out
Now you don't talk so loud
Now you don't seem so proud
About having to be scrounging your next meal

How does it feel, how does it feel?

To be without a home

Like a complete unknown, like a rolling stone - **SIMILE**

Ahh you've gone to the finest schools, alright Miss Lonely
But you know you only used to get juiced in it
Nobody's ever taught you how to live out on the street
And now you're gonna have to get used to it
You say you never compromise
With the mystery tramp, but now you realize
He's not selling any alibis

As you stare into the vacuum of his eyes **METAPHOR**

And say do you want to make a deal?

How does it feel, how does it feel?

To be on your own, with no direction home

A complete unknown, like a rolling stone

Ah you never turned around to see the frowns
On the jugglers and the clowns when they all did tricks for you **METAPHOR**

never understood that it ain't no good
You shouldn't let other people get your kicks for you
You used to ride on a chrome horse with your diplomat
Who carried on his shoulder a Siamese cat
Ain't it hard when you discovered that
He really wasn't where it's at
After he took from you everything he could steal

How does it feel, how does it feel?
To have on your own, with no direction home
Like a complete unknown, like a rolling stone

Ahh princess on a steeple and all the pretty people **ALLITERATION**
They're all drinking, thinking that they've got it made
Exchanging all precious gifts
But you better take your diamond ring, you better pawn it babe
You used to be so amused

At Napoleon in rags and the language that he used **ALUSION**
Go to him he calls you, you can't refuse
When you ain't got nothing, you got nothing to lose
You're invisible now = **HYPERBOLE**, you've got no secrets to conceal
How does it feel, ah how does it feel?
To be on your own, with no direction home
Like a complete unknown, like a rolling stone

3. Explain the Figures of speech by “quoting the line of song” what makes each figures of speech an example of the type you chose and explain how that makes it the figure of speech you said it was.

To be without a home
Like a complete unknown, like a rolling stone - **SIMILE because the song is comparing the person to a rolling stone on the ground, just rolling around or kicked around in any direction.**

You're invisible now = **HYPERBOLE** – This is an exaggeration about how this person has lost everything they had, and now no one notices or pays any attention to them. Therefore, it is like they are invisible.

At Napoleon in rags and the language that he used **ALUSION** is the figure of speech because it refers to someone from history the famous military leader for France Napoleon Bonapart.

As you stare into the vacuum of his eyes **METAPHOR** is the figure of speech as it compares looking at the man's eyes to being sucked in like a vacuum or maybe the emptiness of eyes. Explaining what the person looks like.

4. Explain what two lines of the song that really create imagery (sights, sounds, feelings, smells for you) and explain in detail what you see, hear or feel. (2 to 3 sentences).

On the jugglers and the clowns when they all did tricks for you
never understood that it ain't no good
You shouldn't let other people get your kicks for you
You used to ride on a chrome horse with your diplomat
Who carried on his shoulder a Siamese cat

I chose this part of the song, because even though the jugglers and clowns are metaphors for people who use someone, you can visualize these clowns laughing, and even a glimmering chrome horse with a man riding it with suspicious Siamese cat standing on his shoulder.

Write in complete 4 sentences what you feel the song is about and use two lines of the song to back up your answer.

Example: I believe my song *Like a Rolling Stone* by Bob Dylan is about a person in the big city who was living a big life of being famous, rich,

and had people following them around and waiting on her, and praising her, but really using her. “Ah you never turned around to see the frowns

On the jugglers and the clowns when they all did tricks for you
never understood that it ain't no good

You shouldn't let other people get your kicks for you

You used to ride on a chrome horse with your diplomat”

Also, the song is asking how the it feels when the people turn on her and leave her with no money, home or anything. Ain't it hard when you discovered that

He really wasn't where it's at

After he took from you everything he could steal

How does it feel, how does it feel?

To have on your own, with no direction home

Like a complete unknown, like a rolling stone”

Really this song explores what happens when this girl lives the glamorous life, not realizing that she is being used and then pushed aside and left with nothing, after acting the like she was better than others before this.