

ENGLISH

“Catcher in the Rye” and “The Times they are A-changing.”

Both *The Catcher in the Rye*, released in 1951, and Bob Dylan’s “The Times they are A-changin’”, a song recorded in 1964, and released in 1964, are fantastic examples of texts that explore the concept of change. By utilizing the form of a song; “The times they are a changin’” is accessible to a wide audience, even to those who don’t necessarily identify with the concepts of change that are conveyed.

“The times they are a-changin’” is an anthem which embodies the idea that change is inevitable. Those who do not embrace change will be left behind, this is shown in the lines; “Don’t stand in the doorway, Don’t block up the hall, For he that gets hurt will be he who has stalled” in the third stanza. This statement rings true to me, as throughout my life, I have had to come to terms with the many stages of growing. I have realized opposing these changes is pointless, and can only result in stress, as these changes will happen anyway. “The times...” also expresses the idea that everyone needs to have a part and is involved in change that happens; “Come gather ‘round people wherever you roam”. Through the ideas in the song, I have learnt that that change affects everyone, and thus everyone can affect change.

Language devices are used in “The times...” to convey the concepts of change, and directly appeal to the audience. Through inclusive language “If your time to you is worth saving”, the author gives the reader a sense of urgency, that change is coming fast, and will directly affect them if they do not do act. “Your old road is rapidly agin” uses the road as a metaphor for a generation’s way of life that is quickly being replaced by that of the next generation. This shows that change is not only inevitable but also part of a natural cycle, the next generation will eventually become “the old road”, and the pattern will continue. Colloquial language “There’s a battle outside ragin” represents he is not speaking from a pretentious viewpoint, he is one of the people, and this gives the song a sense of authenticity. Every stanza with exception to the last begins with “Come...”. The anaphora in the initial stanzas act as a call to arms, while the last stanza summarises the message that events have been set in motion, and it is up to deal with the incoming change

The ideas of change expressed in “the times” are similar to the ideas of change expressed in “The catcher in the Rye”. Here Holden tries to prevent change in any way, wanting to retain his childhood innocence, as well as wanting everyone to remain how they once were. An example of this is his constant postponement of contacting his friend Jane Gallagher, he doesn’t want to talk to her again, because he wants to keep a perfect image of her in his head, of how she once was. In contrast, the author of ‘The Times’ is enthusiastic about change, and encourages everyone to accept it too, the writer also warns that if one doesn’t accept change, one will suffer the consequences of their own inaction, this idea is also shown in “The catcher...” by Holden’s depression, through his lack of ability to change.

In conclusion, both texts very effectively show different ideas about change, despite the fact they are written in very different forms.

Story on “Change”

I am cynicism personified; I know that human beings going around in their little lives think that if they were in control, they'd do things differently. The sad reality is though, when one dictatorship or government is torn down and replaced by the new, the fresh, uncorrupted, the good guys, they eventually become the old, the lazy, and the enemy, to eventually be torn down and the process begins again. In the same way a child eventually becomes a parent, the revolutionaries end up becoming the establishment.

It's a drag.

I now know the human race is an eternal TV rerun. That history repeats itself is a testament to the profound lack of imagination of humankind. If there were any aliens observing our little blue-green orb from outer space, on some sort of universal TV, the Martians would have switched to the music channel. You may think this isn't true, that I'm not in the position to make such judgements, but I have seen the conception, the planning, the launch, the establishing, and the aftermath of a so called “revolution”. In fact, if you really want to know (its a little embarrassing really) I was the brains behind one. I can see you're not busy. Let me give you a little look into the rather tedious business of revolution.

I come from a small and rather crappy country. I don't expect you to have heard of it. In this country, It used to be that you weren't really meant to say anything against the good old “King”, no one SAID you weren't allowed to of course, but citizens do tend to notice that the people who insult the boss disappear overnight, with no trace left except a spot of blood or an earlobe left behind. People are perceptive like that. Frankly, things were a bit rough. You could say there were a lot of “issues” with the relationship between the government and the people.

As you may imagine, I was not particularly satisfied with the way things were, but for a long time I put up with them. Why? Because I had a wife as thick as treacle (with a C- face and an B+ body), enough possessions to make my life relatively comfortable and, a job involving packing and repacking boxes that was about as exciting as it sounds. But most of all, I had a desire to avoid being brutally murdered.

In my dreams I wanted freedom. I wanted change.

I wanted Revolution.

So I left my mono browed wife and joined a group of radicals. A group of people who had similar if not identical ideas to my own, with a leader as hungry for blood as a brown snake in a preschool. His techniques were a cocktail of propaganda, murder, and using the less fortunate of us as decoys. Although unconventional, his methods did indeed get results. These days, you'd know him as Lord Buckley

The revolution was not as straightforward or simple as the handbook would make you believe, but long story short, we managed to overthrow the good old king, he let out screams as he was relieved of his head.

All good, right? The king had expired and a new reign full of peace and love and all that rubbish could have begun, and it did, I suppose, for a time. But things quickly fell to pieces, or, perhaps, into place. I guess I should have seen Buckley's true colours from the beginning, but I was naive, we were the sheep and he was the wolf.

I had been given the position of King's advisor. Buckley was king. He wasn't really fit to rule though, mentally I mean, and about a year after we took control, we almost lost it. He was under a lot of pressure, I understand that. It doesn't excuse what he did though. I'll never forget what he said;

"We need to make an example of some people, some hangings should do the trick, it doesn't actually matter if they're guilty or not, people will quickly get the picture"

He said it in the kind of voice someone would use to discuss the cricket scores.

I tried to reason with him, I really did, but it didn't help.

I left that day, and never returned, I'm in hiding now, but I don't even know if they're bothering to look for me. Buckley is very much in control. I have to hand it to him; he's more ruthless and cold than the last king.

Although sometimes everything changes, at the same time, nothing does.