Girl From the North Country

Study Guide Part One

ARTS EDUCATION AND ACTIVATION
CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH TDF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is intentionally designed to be a flexible teaching tool for teachers and facilitators focusing on different aspects of *Girl From The North Country*, with the option to further explore and activate knowledge.

**The guide is broken up into three sections:**

I. Getting to know the show, Conor McPherson story
II. The Great Depression and historical context
III. Bob Dylan and his music

Activations are meant to take students from the realm of knowing a thing or fact into the realm of thinking and feeling. Activations can be very sophisticated, or simple, depending on the depth of exploration teachers and facilitators want to do with their students, or the age group they are working with.
CONOR MCPHERSON ON BEING INSPIRED BY BOB DYLAN’S MUSIC

ELYSA GARDNER for Broadwaydirect.com
OCTOBER 1, 2019

For the celebrated Irish playwright Conor McPherson, *Girl From the North Country* represents a number of firsts: his first musical, his first work set in the United States, and, oh yes, his first project commissioned by Bob Dylan — the first theater piece ever commissioned by the iconic Nobel Prize-winning singer/songwriter.

Technically, it was Dylan’s management team who approached McPherson — known for psychologically and spiritually stirring plays such as *The Weir*, *The Seafarer*, and *Shining City* — about structuring a book around selections from their client’s vast, cherished catalog. McPherson assembled “a very short treatment, maybe two pages,” he recalls. “That was sent off to Bob Dylan, and then his management came back very quickly and said, ‘You could do what you like.’ I was quite stunned.”

Since then, *Girl* has been staged to glowing reviews — under McPherson’s direction — at London’s Old Vic on the West End and Off-Broadway at the Public Theater. Currently launching a Toronto run, the show will then head to Broadway, where it’s set to begin previews February 7 and open March 5 at the Belasco Theatre.

The musical is set in a boarding house in Duluth, Minnesota, Dylan’s hometown, during the Great Depression. (Dylan himself was born a bit later, in 1941.) “The last few years, I’ve been thinking a lot about the ‘30s,” McPherson says. “It’s a decade we need to be studying now, as we face more borders, more walls, more division.” The conceit felt “instinctive. Usually when an idea comes I have no control over it, and often the first idea is the only one I have. And musically, this freed the songs up; by setting it in the ‘30s, we could do them another way. I knew I wanted a lot of vocals and a lot of choral harmonies.”

A guitarist himself, McPherson had always been interested in Dylan’s music, but he admits, “I was not one of those people who could cover every decade of his career. I had about six albums. Then this project came along, and it took me into a whole other realm. I became interested in stages a lot of people don’t know about — like when he became a born-again Christian, and he was making these terrific albums, fired up by his passions and his belief. Then he moved in other directions, and I wanted to follow him on his various journeys.”

In crafting *Girl*, McPherson was also “trying to include songs that were not the ones everyone knew, though they meant something to me. A lot of the time, the songs actually have very little to do with what’s going on in the story, but they reveal something about the story that you didn’t know about. That’s how great a writer Dylan is.”

McPherson was mindful of “racial inequality in the United States, and everywhere now” in crafting *Girl*, and of the inspiration Dylan has continually drawn from African American traditions. “I think Bob Dylan was influenced
by so many different types of music. He was influenced by gospel music as much as he was by Woody Guthrie. Even when he went into his born-again Christian phase, it’s pretty much gospel music — he has a gospel choir singing with him. I wanted to bring that feeling of liberation, and of expressing the feeling of being threatened, of what it’s like to be judged mostly by the color of your skin.”

“A LOT OF THE TIME, THE SONGS ACTUALLY HAVE VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE STORY, BUT THEY REVEAL SOMETHING ABOUT THE STORY THAT YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT. THAT’S HOW GREAT A WRITER DYLAN IS.”

CONOR MCPHERSON

Other songs included in Girl, as of the Public production, range from “Went to See the Gypsy” — of which McPherson muses, “Some people say it’s about when Bob Dylan met Elvis, but Bob Dylan claims he never met Elvis” — to favorites such as “Like a Rolling Stone” and “I Want You.” Each time the musical has been presented thus far, McPherson notes, “we’ve tried to squeeze in another song, but I don’t know if there’s any space left. You’re inspired by the performers. If new people are involved, you get new ideas.”

But McPherson adds that the Broadway incarnation is being built “around the Public production, so hopefully we’ll get as many performers back as we can.” (The recently announced Broadway cast includes many holdovers, among them Mare Winningham, playing the mentally decaying but still painfully alert woman who runs the boarding house with her husband — a role that earned Shirley Henderson an Obie Award across the pond.)

Working on Girl has proven so gratifying that, McPherson quips, “it’s almost hard now for me to conceive of writing a play where people are not going to sing. I don’t know how I’m going to go back.”

THEATRICAL VOCABULARY

Throughout this guide there are theatrical elements and activations referenced. Here are the definitions of those theatrical elements.

At rise: A theatre term that describes what is happening onstage as a show or scene begins. For example: the set, the action, the mood, what the characters are and what they’re doing.

Back story: A history or background, especially one created for a book, play, or movie.

Breaking the Fourth Wall: The fourth wall is a performance term that refers to an invisible and imaginary wall that separates the audience from the actors. When an actor or actors “break” the fourth wall, they breach this separation by acknowledging or speaking to the audience directly.

Dialogue: A conversation between two or more people as a feature of a book, play, or movie.

Given Circumstances: Refers to the who (character), what (plot/actions), where (place), when (time), and why (motivation for characters) in a piece of theatre.

Ensemble: A group of musicians, actors, or dancers who perform together. It is an approach to a performance that aims for a unified effect.

Monologue: A long speech by one actor in a play or movie, or as part of a theatrical or broadcast program.

Narrator: A character who speaks to the audience to tell a story, comment on the action in a play or explains the details of the story. A narrator may also play a character in the play.

Non-Traditional Musical: A piece of theatre that includes elements of a traditional musical (dance, music, song), but uses these elements in a new way. A non-traditional musical is not bound by a linear plot that tells a story from beginning to end. A non-traditional musical can often engage the audience directly and have characters that break the fourth wall.

Tableau: A group of models or motionless figures representing a scene from a story or from history; a tableau vivant.

Traditional Musical: A form of theatre based on a narrative story that uses song, music, dialog and often dance to tell a story while an audience watches.
THINK ABOUT IT

Before the show: Brainstorm some traditional Broadway musicals or film musicals that you are familiar with.

After the show: In what ways does the Girl From the North Country differ from a traditional musical? Discuss in small groups.

ACTIVATE IT
Who is your favorite musical artist and favorite song? Print out the lyrics.
Working in small groups (ensembles), share your lyrics with your group members.
As a group, decide on one song to use as a script.
Define the given circumstances for your new play.
Create a 1-3 minute play with your group that tells a story using only lyrics from the song.
Present this play as an ensemble piece to the class.

GO FURTHER
Add music and movement to your performance.
Discuss how combining the scene with the music further enhanced the song and shaped the meaning of the scene?
WHAT TO KNOW

The show takes place in a family house that has been converted to a boarding house. There are stairs that lead to a landing, a few bedrooms and an attic on the top floor.

WHERE
Duluth, Minnesota

WHEN
Winter, Great Depression, 1934

CHARACTERS

NICK LAINΕ
owner of the house, early 50’s

ELIZABETH LAINΕ
his wife, early 50’s

MARIANNE LAINΕ
their adopted daughter, 19

GENE LAINΕ
their biological son, 20

KATHERINE (KATE) DRAPEΕ
Gene’s ex-girlfriend

MR. BURKE
factory owner and boarder, 50’s

MRS. BURKE
his wife and boarder, 50’s

ELIAS BURKE
their son, 30

MRS. NEISEN
a widow and boarder, early 40’s

JOE SCOTT
late 20’s, a boxer

REVEREND MARLOWE
Bible salesman, 50’s

MR. PERRY
a shoe mender, early 60’s

DR. WALKER
a doctor
GLOSSARY FOR GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY

**Boarding house:** A house, sometimes a family home, in which people can rent one or more rooms for a night, week or extended periods of time. The common portion of the house is maintained by the proprietor and sometimes meals and laundry are provided. During the Depression, families sometimes converted their homes to boarding houses to earn extra money.

**Dementia:** A condition that affects memory, thinking, language and social abilities. It impacts one’s daily life and may worsen over time.

**Flophouse:** A cheap hotel or boarding house where many people sleep in large rooms.

**Bread Lines:** The lines of people waiting outside a charity to receive a free meal. During the Depression, there were so many hungry and homeless people that lines often snaked down many blocks.
Radio Show: Before television, radio was the primary broadcast medium in America. In the 1930’s, it was the golden age of radio. Many families gathered around the radio to listen to live programs every evening, including plays, mystery serials, soap operas, quiz shows, talent shows, variety hours, orchestra concerts, comedies, sports, children’s shows, cooking shows, and many more.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR): He was the 32nd president of the United States from 1933 until his death in 1945. Roosevelt led the United States through the Great Depression and World War II. He expanded the powers of the federal government through a series of programs and reforms known as the New Deal. He was the only president elected to the office four times.

Soup Kitchen: A place where food is served to the hungry for free, usually in a church or charitable institution. The origin of the term came from charities that served only soup and bread. Many soup kitchens now serve a wider variety of food. Soup kitchens were widespread during the Great Depression. Many families struggled to put food on the table and resorted to eating in soup kitchens.

The Twin Cities: The cities of Minneapolis–Saint Paul. Minneapolis is the most populous city in the state. St. Paul, its neighbor to the east, is the state capital.

Traveling Salesman: A representative of a company who visits stores, businesses and sometimes homes to show merchandise and solicit orders.
THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In order to understand The Great Depression, we must take a look at what preceded it. The early 1920’s, or “Roaring Twenties”, was a period of economic expansion as the nation’s wealth had more than doubled. Railroad lines in the U.S. had also expanded from 35,000 miles in 1865 to 254,000 miles by the start of the 1920’s, connecting U.S. citizens easier than ever before. During the early ’20’s consumer spending was at an all-time high. Household items were no longer being homemade, and instead were being mass produced. This increase in the nation’s productivity sparked a need for more workers, thus causing people to spend even more money. Seeing a trend in increased business sales, citizens from all economic backgrounds began investing in the stock market, with some even borrowing money to invest. However, by the spring of 1929, consumer spending started its decline, and due to this businesses had a surplus of goods and were forced to slow down or halt production. Yet, even with business trending down, the stock market prices continued to rise. On September 3, 1929, the stock market hit its peak, and began to drop two days later. Almost two months later, October 24, 1929 (now known as Black Thursday), the stock market took an unexpected hit. Panicking investors started selling their stocks at an alarming rate, and by the following Tuesday, Black Tuesday, the stock market had crashed. The economy was in peril, consumer spending had all but stopped, factories were forced to close their doors and fire workers, and people began to fear for what this would mean for banks.

Banks had become involved in a practice known as “speculation buying,” where they used the funds from investors to lend to people who needed money to purchase stock. However, when the market crashed, borrowers were unable to pay back the money initially lent, meaning the banks could not repay the money that was borrowed from the investors. Soon, citizens began to fear that their money was no longer safe in banks, so many began to withdraw all of their savings, causing a great many banks to close. By 1933, nearly half of the banks in the United States were out of business.

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Those in areas like Duluth, Minnesota were not immune to the effects of the crash. From 1930 to 1936, there was a terrible drought throughout much of America’s farmland in the Midwest. Due to years of over planting because of the demands of a seemingly wonderful economy in the ‘20’s, the soil on farms became unusable and transformed into what was called “dust bowls.” The inability to grow crops forced farms to shut down, and caused a huge migration of rural residents to move to urban areas to look for work.
THINK ABOUT IT

Who are the people in the photo? What are they doing? Why are they waiting? What was their life like before the Depression? What happened to them and their family? What do you imagine they are thinking, feeling or saying right now?

ACTIVATE IT

Tableau

- Frozen picture (Tableau): Ask for volunteers to recreate the photo, one person at a time, and freeze in time.
- In groups of 4–5, take five minutes to create a new tableau. For example, imagine what happened right before the photo was taken? Or imagine what happens next? Create a new photo showing that moment.
- Each member of the group will decide on what the character is thinking in that moment and create one line of dialogue.
- Group will decide on the order to present the lines of dialogue.
- Present the tableau with lines of dialogue to the larger group.

WRITING DIALOGUES

In pairs, write a dialogue between one person in the photograph and another character using the writing prompt: “Hey, what do you think you’re doing?!?”

Take turns adding sentences until a one or two page dialogue is completed. Read dialogues out loud and discuss. How were people’s lives changed by the Depression?
THINK ABOUT IT

Who is the woman in the photo?

ACTIVATE IT

Write a one-page back story for this woman. Answer all the bullet points.

- What is her name?
- Where does she live?
- Why does she look the way she does in the photo?
- How old are her children?
- What conditions is she living in and why?
- What has happened to her and her family?
- What other details does the photo inspire you to think about her?

TRY IT OUT

Write a monologue for this newly created character and imagine she’s a new boarder at Nick and Elizabeth’s house. In this monologue, she should explain why she’s there and what she hopes for her future.
# Timeline of the Great Depression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>The beginning of The Great Depression, a series of falling stock prices cause economic panic until the market hits rock bottom in November.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which raised average tariff rates to 60%, is passed. This act weakens the global economy and international trade begins to collapse. A drought hits 23 states and starts the Dust Bowl. Banks fail and unemployment rises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>As unemployment rises, food riots begin to occur, and soup kitchens and breadlines open to feed the unemployed. The drought continues, and European banks fail.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Fourteen dust storms hit the Midwest, and unemployment continues to rise. Franklin Delano Roosevelt defeats Herbert Hoover and becomes president. Approximately half of black Americans are out of work. In some Northern cities, whites called for blacks to be fired from any jobs as long as there were whites out of work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>FDR launches the New Deal to revitalize the economy. Prohibition is rescinded nationally. Unemployment hits the highest level of the Great Depression at 25%, and over 1 million people are homeless, more than 33% of banks fail, and many Americans lose their life savings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>April 15th, worst dust storm on record, hottest temperatures on record, drought covered 75% of the country by year’s end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>FDR launches more programs to help farmers and the poor, including The Social Security Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>The hottest summer on record kills 1,693 people with temperatures breaking 110 degrees. The economy is slowly recovering, and unemployment slowly lowers. FDR is elected for a second term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Economic growth has improved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Hitler invades Poland, WWII begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>The United States sends arms to Britain, creating jobs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>FDR begins his third term as president. The drought ends. Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, and the United States declares war on Japan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THINK ABOUT IT

Research and define:
• The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act
• The New Deal
• Prohibition
• Social Security
• Pearl Harbor

ACTIVATE IT
Choose one of these topics and write a newscast (script) for radio that includes all the details about the event. Your newscast must include:
• Where
• When
• Who
• How
• What
• Introduction
• Sound effects

In a group, record this newscast for radio. How is it introduced and what sound effects can you include? Decide on who is reporting, who is introducing, who is recording, and what sound effects are being used? Record, share.
Bob Dylan was born Robert Zimmerman in Duluth, Minnesota in 1941. He grew up to become one of the most significant American musicians and artists, recording multiple hit records and songs. His music defines generations, as well as civil and human rights movements. In 2016, Bob Dylan was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition,” and he’s a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Bob Dylan began his music career as a folk singer, a type of music that involved storytelling set to music and passed from generation to generation. Folk songs often embodied a culture. Bob Dylan was an artist who characterized a new style of folk music that was used to express unhappiness with the establishment and express political or personal views and concerns.

“Hurricane” is a protest song by Bob Dylan and Jacques Levy, about the imprisonment of Rubin “Hurricane” Carter. Carter was a middleweight boxing champion wrongfully tried and convicted of robbery and murder for which he spent 20 years in prison. While in, Carter wrote his autobiography *The Sixteenth Round* and sent it to Bob Dylan. After reading it, Bob Dylan visited Carter in prison and was inspired to write his story as a song. The song became “Hurricane,” and it was a huge hit.
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THINK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think this song is included in Girl From the North Country?

2. What character from the show has a story line and history similar to Rubin “Hurricane” Carter?

ACTIVATE IT

1. The first four lines of the first verse of “Hurricane” work as an “at rise.”

   Pistol shots ring out in the barroom night
   Enter Patty Valentine from the upper hall
   She sees the bartender in a pool of blood
   Cries out, “My God, they killed them all!”

What are the elements of the at rise in this verse?

2. What are other examples of protest or folk songs?

   Create an “at rise” description for that song. Share it. Can others identify the song from the “at rise” you created?

   The first verse of “Hurricane” sets the stage for an epic story and it ends letting the audience know that Rubin Hurricane Carter still sits in a jail cell and his imprisonment was a bitter example of racism and corruption. Rubin was eventually released after his conviction was overturned.

3. Create your own protest song.

   • Identify a cause or story you care about.
   • Open it with an “at rise” that sets up the story.
   • Tell the story in three verses (short paragraphs).
   • Read your song out loud to someone else.

TRY IT OUT

Working in an “ensemble” decide on a style of music, assign parts to different members of the ensemble, rehearse and present in the style of Girl From The North Country.
BOB DYLAN DISCOGRAPHY AND HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1960s

MARCH 19, 1962
Bob Dylan’s self-titled debut album, Bob Dylan is released by Columbia Records.

OCTOBER 1962
The Cuban Missile Crisis

MAY 27, 1963
Bob Dylan releases The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan. The album includes the song, “Girl from the North Country.”

AUGUST 28, 1963
The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom is attended by 200,000 people in Washington, D.C. It is here that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech.

NOVEMBER 22, 1963
President Kennedy is shot and killed in Dallas, Texas. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson becomes president that same day. Two days later Lee Harvey Oswald, accused Kennedy assassin, is shot and killed by Jack Ruby.

JUNE 11, 1964
Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life in prison for opposing South Africa’s apartheid government.

JULY 2, 1964
President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

AUGUST 2, 1964
Two supposed incidents in the Gulf of Tonkin lead President Johnson to seek congressional approval for direct U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

AUGUST 8, 1964
Bob Dylan releases Another Side of Bob Dylan. The album includes the song “My Back Pages.”

FEBRUARY 21, 1965
Civil Rights leader Malcolm X is assassinated in New York.

MARCH 7 TO 21, 1965
Selma to Montgomery March is led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and was incited by the murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson and African Americans whose right to vote were being unjustly obstructed.

MARCH 8, 1965
The first U.S. troops arrive in Vietnam. By the end of the year 190,000 U.S. soldiers are deployed.

MARCH 25, 1965
Bob Dylan releases Bringing It All Back Home.

AUGUST 30, 1965
Bob Dylan releases Highway 61 Revisited. “Ballad of a Thin Man”, “Like a Rolling Stone” are featured on the album.

AUGUST 6, 1965
President Lyndon Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

OCTOBER 1966
Rubin “Hurricane” Carter is wrongfully arrested and accused of murder.

OCTOBER 15, 1966
The Black Panther Party is founded in Oakland, California.

APRIL 15, 1967
Hundreds of thousands join Vietnam War Protest in NYC and Washington.

JULY 20, 1969
Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin land on the moon.

AUGUST 19, 1968
Thousands protest the Vietnam War and disrupt the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

NOVEMBER 5, 1968
Richard M. Nixon is elected president, promising to end the war in Vietnam.

APRIL 9, 1969
Bob Dylan releases Nashville Skyline. “Lay Lady Lay” is included on the album.

DECEMBER 27, 1967
Bob Dylan releases John Wesley Harding. “All Along the Watchtower” is featured on this album.

AUGUST 30, 1967
Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African American U.S. Supreme Court justice.
1970s

**APRIL 30, 1970**
President Nixon announces that an incursion into Cambodia has been launched by the U.S.

**MAY, 1970**
The Kent State and Jackson State shootings occur as student protests grow violent over the U.S. bombing of a neutral Cambodia.

**JUNE 8, 1970**
Bob Dylan releases *Self Portrait*.

**OCTOBER 19, 1970**
Bob Dylan releases *New Morning*. "Sign on the Window" and "Went to See the Gypsy" are featured on the album.

**JUNE 17, 1972**
Watergate scandal begins, five men are arrested for the burglary of the Democratic National Committee offices.

**NOVEMBER 7, 1972**
Richard M. Nixon and his vice president Spiro Agnew are re-elected.

**JANUARY 27, 1973**
The Paris Peace Accords are signed ending the U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

**FEBRUARY 7, 1973**
A committee is established to investigate Watergate.

**JULY 13, 1973**
Bob Dylan releases *Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid*.

**NOVEMBER 19, 1973**
Bob Dylan releases his album titled *Dylan*.

**JANUARY 17, 1974**
Bob Dylan releases *Planet Waves*, featuring the song “Forever Young.”

**AUGUST 8, 1974**
President Nixon resigns from office, but is pardoned by newly sworn-in President Gerald Ford.

**DECEMBER 11, 1974**
Despite two witnesses recanting their identification of Rubin “Hurricane” Carter, Judge Samuel Larner denies a motion for a new trial.

**JUNE 17, 1972**
The Vietnam War ends with the Fall of Saigon.

**JULY 4, 1976**
The U.S. celebrates its Bicentennial anniversary.

**NOVEMBER 2, 1976**
Jimmy Carter is elected president.

**JUNE 15, 1978**
Bob Dylan releases *Street Legal*. “Is Your Love In Vain,” “Senor,” and “True Love Tends to Forget” are tracks on the album.

**AUGUST 20, 1979**
Bob Dylan releases *Slow Train Coming*, featuring the title track “Slow Train Coming.”

**JANUARY 17, 1973**
Bob Dylan releases *Blood on the Tracks*, featuring “Idiot Wind.”

**NOVEMBER 4, 1980**
Ronald Reagan is elected president of the United States.

**DECEMBER 8, 1980**
Former Beatles musician John Lennon is murdered.

**AUGUST 1, 1981**
MTV launches as a cable network.

**AUGUST 12, 1981**
Bob Dylan releases *Shot of Love*.

**October 27, 1983**
Bob Dylan releases *Infidels* which features songs “Sweetheart Like You,” “License to Kill,” and “Jokerman.”

**January 28, 1985**
“We Are the World” is recorded by popular musicians, including Bob Dylan, to bring awareness about famine in third-world countries including Bob Dylan.

**June 8, 1985**
Bob Dylan releases *Empire Burlesque*. “Tight Connection to My Heart” is included on the album.

**November 19, 1985**
Rubin “Hurricane” Carter is released from prison.

**July 14, 1986**
Bob Dylan releases *Knocked Out Loaded*.

**June 12, 1987**
President Reagan delivers a speech in West Berlin famously saying, “Tear down this wall!” in reference to the Berlin Wall.

**May 31, 1988**
Bob Dylan releases *Down in the Groove*.

**November 8, 1988**
George H.W. Bush is elected president of the United States.

**September 18, 1989**
Bob Dylan releases *Oh Mercy*.

**November 9, 1989**
The Berlin Wall is dismantled.
### 1990s

**AUGUST 2, 1990**  
Iraq invades Kuwait, and the U.S. begins its involvement in the Gulf War.

**SEPTEMBER 11, 1990**  
Bob Dylan releases *Under the Red Sky.*

**FEBRUARY 27, 1991**  
The Gulf War ends after Iraq withdraws from Kuwait.

**MARCH 26, 1991**  
Bob Dylan releases *The Bootleg Series Volumes 1–3,* featuring the song “Blind Willie McTell.”

**NOVEMBER 3, 1992**  
Bob Dylan releases *Good as I Been to You.*

**NOVEMBER 3, 1992**  
Bill Clinton is elected president of the United States.

**OCTOBER 26, 1993**  
Bob Dylan releases *World Gone Wrong.*

**NOVEMBER 5, 1996**  
President Bill Clinton is re-elected.

**SEPTEMBER 30, 1997**  
Bob Dylan releases *Time Out of Mind,* featuring “Make You Feel My Love.”

**JANUARY 6, 1998**  
Monica Lewinsky comes forward and confesses to an extra-marital relationship with President Clinton. President Clinton’s denial lead to an impeachment inquiry.

### 2000s

**FEBRUARY 12, 1999**  
President Clinton is acquitted in his impeachment trial.

**DECEMBER 12, 2000**  
George W. Bush, son of former president George H.W. Bush, is elected President of the United States after a tense voting dispute in Florida.

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2001**  
Two planes strike both World Trade Center towers in NYC, and another plane strikes the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Al-Qaeda, led by Osama Bin Laden, admits to being behind the attacks. This same day Bob Dylan releases “Love and Theft.”

**NOVEMBER 4, 2008**  
Barack Obama is elected president of the United States, the first African-American president.

**APRIL 28, 2009**  
Bob Dylan releases *Together Through Life.*

**OCTOBER 13, 2009**  
Bob Dylan releases *Christmas in the Heart.*

### 2010s

**FEBRUARY 3, 2015**  
Bob Dylan releases *Shadows in the Night.*

**MAY 20, 2016**  
Bob Dylan releases *Fallen Angels.*

**NOVEMBER 9, 2016**  
Donald Trump is elected president of the United States.

**MARCH 31, 2017**  
Bob Dylan releases *Triplicate.*

**HOUSING, BANKING, AND SUBPRIME MORTGAGE CRISIS**  
The housing, banking, and subprime mortgage crisis hits, leading to a $700 billion bailout by President Bush. The bailout is supported by presidential nominees Barack Obama and John McCain.

**OCTOBER 7, 2001**  
The War on Terrorism begins with the United States and the United Kingdom attacking the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Afganistan.

**NOVEMBER 2, 2004**  
President Bush wins re-election against opponent John Kerry.

**JUNE 28, 2005**  
Hurricane Katrina hits the Gulf Coast displacing hundreds of thousands of Americans as over 2,000 perish due to the disaster.

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2012**  
Bob Dylan releases *Tempest.*

**NOVEMBER 6, 2012**  
President Obama wins re-election against opponent Mitt Romney.
THINK ABOUT IT

Dylan’s lyrics are still relevant today because he writes about timeless issues. What are some social issues that Dylan wrote about that are still relevant today?

ACTIVATE IT
1. Brainstorm a list of social issues or causes that you are passionate about.
2. Find one Bob Dylan song that represents one of these issues.
3. Present this song to your class and lead a discussion about how the song relates to the issue that you are passionate about.
RESOURCES

**Interviews about Girl from the North Country:**
https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/10/15/girl-from-the-north-country-brings-bob-dylan-to-the-stage
https://www.americantheatre.org/2018/10/01/conor-mcpherson-bringing-dylan-back-home/

**The Great Depression:**
https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americahistory/features/dustbowl-great-depression/
https://www.history.com/topics/great-depression/great-depression-history
http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/depwwii/race/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eih67rlGNhU
http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/collections/franklin/?p=digitallibrary/digitallibrary

**Hurricane Carter:**
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/Hurricane
https://www.livingmgz.com/glamour/the-incredible-story-of-hurricane/img/hurricane05.jp

**Discography and Bob Dylan History:**


**Historical Timeline:**


NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS

National Core Arts Standards Addressed in this Study Guide

THEATRE/CREATING

#TH:Cr1.1
Anchor Standard: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Grade 6
TH:Cr1.1.6
a. Identify possible solutions to staging challenges in a drama/theatre work.

c. Explore a scripted or improvised character by imagining the given circumstances in a drama/theatre work.

Grade 7
TH:Cr1.1.7
a. Investigate multiple perspectives and solutions to staging challenges in a drama/theatre work.

c. Envision and describe a scripted or improvised character’s inner thoughts and objectives in a drama/theatre work.

Grade 8
TH:Cr1.1.8

Th:Cr1.1.HS
a. Apply basic research to construct ideas about the visual composition of a drama/theatre work.

c. Use script analysis to generate ideas about a character that is believable and authentic in a drama/theatre work.

Grade Hs proficient
TH:Cr1.1.HSII
a. Explore the function of history and culture in the development of a dramatic concept through a critical analysis of original ideas in a drama/theatre work.

b. Cooperate as a creative team to make interpretive choices for a drama/theatre work.

Grade Hs advanced
TH:Cr1.1.HSIII
a. Develop and synthesize original ideas in a drama/theatre work utilizing critical analysis, historical and cultural context, research, and western or non-western theatre traditions.

b. Collaborate as a creative team to discover artistic solutions and make interpretive choices in a devised or scripted drama/theatre work.

THEATRE/CREATING

#TH:Cr2.1
Anchor Standard: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Grade 6
TH:Cr2.1.6
a. Use critical analysis to improve, refine, and evolve original ideas and artistic choices in a devised or scripted drama/theatre work.

b. Contribute ideas and accept and incorporate the ideas of others in preparing or devising drama/theatre work.

Grade 7
TH:Cr2.1.7
a. Examine and justify original ideas and artistic choices in a drama/theatre work based on critical analysis, background knowledge, and historical and cultural context.

b. Demonstrate mutual respect for self and others and their roles in preparing or devising drama/theatre work.

Grade 8
TH:Cr2.1.8
a. Articulate and apply critical analysis, background knowledge, research, and historical and cultural context to the development of original ideas for a drama/theatre work.

b. Share leadership and responsibilities to develop collaborative goals when preparing or devising drama/theatre work.

Grade Hs proficient
TH:Cr2.1.HSI
a. Explore the function of history and culture in the development of a dramatic concept through a critical analysis of original ideas in a drama/theatre work.

b. Cooperate as a creative team to make interpretive choices for a drama/theatre work.

Grade Hs advanced
TH:Cr2.1.HSII
a. Develop and synthesize original ideas in a drama/theatre work utilizing critical analysis, historical and cultural context, research, and western or non-western theatre traditions.

b. Collaborate as a creative team to discover artistic solutions and make interpretive choices in a devised or scripted drama/theatre work.

THEATRE/CREATING

#TH:Cr3.1
Anchor Standard: Refine new work through play, drama processes and theatre experiences using critical analysis and experimentation.

Grade 6
TH:Cr3.1.6
a. Articulate and examine choices to refine a devised or scripted drama/theatre work.

b. Identify effective physical and vocal traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama/theatre work.
Girl From the North Country | Study Guide

**Grade 7**
TH:Cr3.1.7
b. Develop effective physical and vocal traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama/theatre work

**Grade 8**
TH:Cr3.1.8
b. Refine effective physical, vocal, and physiological traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama/ theatre work.

**Grade Hs proficient**
TH:Cr3.1.HSI
b. Explore physical, vocal and physiological choices to develop a performance that is believable, authentic, and relevant to a drama/theatre work.

**Grade Hs accomplished**
TH:Cr3.1.HSII
b. Use research and script analysis to revise physical, vocal, and physiological choices impacting the believability and relevance of a drama/ theatre work.

**Grade Hs advanced**
TH:Cr3.1.HSIII
b. Synthesize ideas from research, script analysis, and context to create a performance that is believable, authentic, and relevant in a drama/theatre work.

**THEATRE/PERFORMING**
#TH:Pr4.1
Anchor Standard: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.

**Grade 6**
TH:Pr4.1.6
a. Recognize how acting exercises and techniques can be applied to a drama/theatre work.

**Grade 7**
TH:Pr4.1.7
b. Use various character objectives in a drama/theatre work.

**Grade 8**
TH:Pr4.1.8
b. Use various character objectives and tactics in a drama/theatre work to overcome an obstacle.

**Grade Hs proficient**
TH:Pr4.1.HSI
b. Shape character choices using given circumstances in a drama/ theatre work.

**Grade Hs accomplished**
TH:Pr4.1.HSII
a. Discover how unique choices shape believable and sustainable drama/theatre work.

**Grade Hs advanced**
TH:Pr4.1.HSIII

**THEATRE/RESPONDING**
#TH:Re7.1
Anchor Standard: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

**Grade 6**
TH:Re7.1.6
a. Describe and record personal reactions to artistic choices in a drama/theatre work.

**Grade 7**
TH:Re7.1.7
a. Compare recorded personal and peer reactions to artistic choices in a drama/theatre work.
Grade 8
TH:Re7.1.8
a. Apply criteria to the evaluation of artistic choices in a drama/theatre work.

Grade Hs proficient
TH:Re7.1.HSI
a. Respond to what is seen, felt, and heard in a drama/theatre work to develop criteria for artistic choices.

Grade Hs advanced
TH:Re7.1.HSIII
a. Use historical and cultural context to structure and justify personal responses to a drama/theatre work.

THEATRE/RESPONDING

#TH:Re8.1
Anchor Standard: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Grade 6
TH:Re8.1.6
b. Identify cultural perspectives that may influence the evaluation of a drama/theatre work.

Grade 7
TH:Re8.1.7
b. Describe how cultural perspectives can influence the evaluation of drama/theatre work.

Grade 8
TH:Re8.1.8
b. Analyze how cultural perspectives influence the evaluation of a drama/theatre work.

Grade Hs proficient
TH:Re8.1.HSI
b. Identify and compare cultural perspectives and contexts that may influence the evaluation of a drama/theatre work.

Grade Hs accomplished
TH:Re8.1.HSII
b. Apply concepts from a drama/theatre work for personal realization about cultural perspectives and understanding.

Grade Hs advanced
TH:Re8.1.HSIII
b. Use new understandings of cultures and contexts to shape personal responses to drama/theatre work.

THEATRE/PERFORMING

#TH:Pr6.1
Anchor Standard: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

Grade 6
TH:Pr6.1.6
a. Adapt a drama/theatre work and present it informally for an audience.

Grade 7
TH:Pr6.1.7
a. Participate in rehearsals for a drama/theatre work that will be shared with an audience.

Grade 8
TH:Pr6.1.8
a. Perform a rehearsed drama/theatre work for an audience.

Grade Hs proficient
TH:Pr6.1.HSI
a. Perform a scripted drama/theatre work for a specific audience.

Grade Hs accomplished
TH:Pr6.1.HSII
a. Present a drama/theatre work using creative processes that shape the production for a specific audience.

THEATRE/RESPONDING

#TH:Re7.1
Anchor Standard: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Grade 6
TH:Re7.1.6
a. Describe and record personal reactions to artistic choices in a drama/theatre work.

Grade 7
TH:Re7.1.7
a. Compare recorded personal and peer reactions to artistic choices in a drama/theatre work.

Grade 8
TH:Re7.1.8
a. Apply criteria to the evaluation of artistic choices in a drama/theatre work.

Grade Hs proficient
TH:Re7.1.HSI
a. Respond to what is seen, felt, and heard in a drama/theatre work to develop criteria for artistic choices.

Grade Hs accomplished
TH:Re7.1.HSII
a. Demonstrate an understanding of multiple interpretations of artistic criteria and how each might be used to influence future artistic choices of a drama/theatre work.

Grade Hs advanced
TH:Re7.1.HSIII
a. Use historical and cultural context to structure and justify personal responses to a drama/theatre work.
THEATRE/RESPONDING

#TH:Re8.1
Anchor Standard: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Grade 6
TH:Re8.1.6
b. Identify cultural perspectives that may influence the evaluation of a drama/theatre work.

Grade 7
TH:Re8.1.7
b. Describe how cultural perspectives can influence the evaluation of drama/theatre work.

Grade 8
TH:Re8.1.8
b. Analyze how cultural perspectives influence the evaluation of a drama/theatre work.

Grade Hs proficient
TH:Re8.1.HSI
b. Identify and compare cultural perspectives and contexts that may influence the evaluation of a drama/theatre work.

THEATRE/CONNECTING

#TH:Cn10.1
Anchor Standard: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Grade 6
TH:Cn10.1.6
a. Explain how the actions and motivations of characters in a drama/theatre work impact perspectives of a community or culture.
COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE — ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social science.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.4
Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.5
Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, sound) and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.7.5
Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.4
Present findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.5
Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.2
Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4
Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.5
Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.5
Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3
Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.A
Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.B
Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.C
Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.D
Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.E
Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3
Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3.A
Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3.B
Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3.C
Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3.D
Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3.E
that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.
**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3**
Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.A**
Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.B**
Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.C**
Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.D**
Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.E**
Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3**
Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3.A**
Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3.B**
Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3.C**
Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3.D**
Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3.E**
Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.3**
Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.3.A**
Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.3.B**
Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.