

## The Beatles vs. Bob Dylan

Music has the power to change personalities and attitudes. With their different styles of music, both Bob Dylan and the Beatles are able to impact the huge crowds that were brought in for their music. The Beatles and Bob Dylan are much alike, but they contrast a lot, also. They helped people to overcome their sadness, entertained people with their musical styles, and ended their musical careers in different ways.

To start with, the Beatles and Dylan both helped America to heal during a time of tragic loss. At the time of the Beatles' first arrival in America, they appeared on the Ed Sullivan show, and "a congratulatory telegram from Elvis Presley, the great, lost god of rockabilly, was read at the beginning of the show, in what might have been seen as torch-passing . . ." (Loder 2). America was also dealing with "The assassination of a young and charismatic President [which] . . . had cast a pall on the national mood . . ." (2). However, the Beatles helped improve this mood because "with their buoyant spirits, their bottomless charm, their unaccustomed and irrepressible wit--- [they could] probably have boosted the mirth quotient at a clown convention" (Loder 2). Dylan, like the Beatles, came on to the music scene with the tragic loss of its leader, Elvis. Cocks said, "at the time Dylan first arrived in New York City from the Midwest, rock music had lost its leader—Elvis, in a series of musical movies" (2). Dylan's music was "A series of dreams about America as it once and never was" (Cocks 1). However, The Beatles and Dylan both helped America heal during a time of sorrow.

While both entertainers helped Americans, they did so by their different types of music. The saying from people back in Dylan's day was, "Anyone who wanted to listen to a song, and take something away from it that would last a little longer than a good night kiss, turned on to a fold" (Cocks 2). As for the Beatles, they started their own revolution in the United States with the "British Invasion," just as changes across the country were taking place (Loder 1). Their carefree lyrics were what the U.S. needed after the downfall of our leader, and rumors of a possible war circulating. Even former Beatle Paul McCartney is quoted saying about Dylan, "All those songs were great lyrically. Dylan's Gobbledygook and his cluttered poetry were very appealing" (Cocks 2). While Dylan used his words to soothe the public through his music, the Beatles gave us hope for good-times yet to come. This all helped to contribute to people joining together to unite through the power of music. Further more, Dylan and the Beatles had "Universal Appeal" in their music (Cocks 4)(Loder 4). This was something everyone could relate to in their songs and something that people could find meaning in.

Finally, the Beatles and Bob Dylan put an end to performing their very different styles. The Beatles were on top of the charts and won the hearts of everyone, especially young teens. But some things inevitably pulled the Beatles apart. Loder said, "The paths of Lennon and McCartney, however, were diverging drastically" (4). Both had married women and were diving into a new world of family life. The group itself was growing apart. (Loder 4). So, in 1970, the Beatles broke apart and went their own ways. Bob Dylan had a different kind of ending. Cocks explained, "Within two years—tops—[Dylan] turned folk inside out. And then abandoned it" (2). Going from Folk to Rock was harder than he ever imagined. Cocks said, "Dylan got booed when she showed up with rock musicians behind him, and the booing didn't let up until hit great songs . . . pierced a whole new generation" (Cocks 3). Throughout the years since he changed from folk to rock, Dylan has entertained through and through with his audience. Bob Dylan quit recording in 1991 (Cocks 4). Both the Beatles and Bob Dylan stole the hearts of their fans and still continue to do so even though they are no longer recording.

In conclusion, the Beatles and Bob Dylan healed a nation, brought social changes, and left the music scene in different ways. During the 1960's the Beatles and Dylan would heal America after times of tragic loss. They did so by giving their music as a sign of hope and reassurance. People still listen to their music today, and today's entertainers use the foundation set by both Bob Dylan and the Beatles.

**Works Cited**

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