

Read the following poems, one by the musician Bob Dylan, and one by the poet, Dylan Thomas. After reading the two poems, address the questions that follow. Be sure to be complete; remember that support from the poem itself is always nice.

**“Let Me Die in My Footsteps”
Bob Dylan**

I will not go down under the ground
'Cause somebody tells me that death's comin' round
And I will not carry myself down to die
When I go to my grave my head will be high

Let me die in my footsteps
Before I go down under the ground

There's been rumors of the war and wars that have been
The meaning of life has been lost in the wind
And some people thinkin' that the end is close by
Stead of learnin' to live they are learning to die

Let me die in my footsteps
Before I go down under the ground

I don't know if I'm smart but I think I can see
When someone is pullin' the wool over me
And if this war comes and death's all around
Let me die on this land 'fore I die underground

Let me die in my footsteps
Before I go down under the ground

There's always been people that have to cause fear
They've been talking of the war now for many long years
I have read all their statements and I've not said a word
But now Lord God let my poor voice be heard

Let me die in my footsteps
Before I go down under the ground

Let me drink from the waters where the mountain streams flood
Let me smell of wildflowers flow free through my blood
Let me sleep in your meadows with the green grassy leaves
Let me walk down the highway with my brother in peace

Let me die in my footsteps
Before I go down under the ground

Go out in your country where the land meets the sun
See the craters and the canyons and where the waterfalls run
Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho
Let every state in this union seep in your souls

And you'll die in your footsteps
Before you go down under the ground

“Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night”
Dylan Thomas

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Bob Dylan/Dylan Thomas Questions

1. What is the theme of each poem?
2. Identify 2 examples of powerful imagery used in each work and explain the significance of it.
3. What are the similarities and the differences in these works?
4. What are these men trying to convey about living life? What might they be trying to say about regrets and accomplishments in life?
5. What would you like to accomplish while you are alive?