

Bob Dylan, one of the most influential singer-songwriters of all time, again made history, winning the 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature as the first-ever singer-songwriter nominee, leaving many to ponder the distinction between song and literature, the distinction between musician and writer—Moreover, whether or not Dylan deserved the Nobel Prize. The Nobel Prize is the highest honor for a writer, and for Bob Dylan, a musician, to be nominated for such an honor came as a shock and, for some, utter disbelief—Not all thought it was a good decision. Some literary advocates publicized their disappointment with that year's Nobel Prize winners; journalist and author Anna North wrote, "[...] by awarding the prize to [Dylan], the Nobel committee is choosing not to award it to a writer, and that is a disappointing choice." Many made clear their belief that Dylan's songwriting, along with music as a whole, should not have anything to do with the Nobel Prize; however, Dylan's songwriting was unmatched for its time, so much so that it not only forever influenced the music industry, it "[...] redefined the boundaries of literature, setting off a debate about whether song lyrics have the same artistic value as poetry or novels" (Sisario et al., 2016). Dylan's powerful lyrics were strong enough to impact not only the world of music but also, in 2016, the world of literature; Dylan's songwriting was unsurpassed; Dylan's songwriting was well-deserving of the Nobel Prize.