

**“I can see clearly now the rain is gone” by Jimmy Cliff**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrHxhQPOO2c>

Originally written by US-born singer-songwriter [Johnny Nash](#) in 1972, this feel-good song was **revised** by Jimmy Cliff in 1982. Like Cash’s original, the Cliff version is a reggae **ballad** that was released for the sports comedy film [Cool Runnings](#) (1993), which is “loosely based on the debut of the Jamaican national bobsleigh team at the 1988 Winter Olympics” (Wikipedia).

The official video of the song features the Jamaican athletes first practicing on a bobsleigh with wheels on the tropical, Caribbean island, and then the legendary “**Rasta-Rockett**” at the Olympics in Calgary Canada. Not surprisingly, the team did not do well, unlike Jamaica’s brilliant sprinters. In the final race, their bobsleigh flipped over. Fortunately, no one was **injured**, and they were able to push the sleigh across the finishing line, to [applause from the audience](#).

Jimmy Cliff, born in 1944, and at 14 had a hit with “[Hurricane Hattie](#)”. He went on to become a **renowned** reggae artist and musician and actor. He is the only living reggae singer to hold Jamaica’s Order of Merit, and is one of the best-known reggae stars alongside the **late** Bob Marley.

**Match the words in bold above with the definitions (the answers are at the bottom of the page)**

1/ To reprise	a/ A narrative song with a recurrent refrain, a poem often sentimental or romantic
2/ Ballad	b/ To suffer from a wound following an accident
3/ Rasta/Rastafari	c/ Here the word means deceased, dead.
4/ To be injured	d/ Well-known, famous, having a good reputation
5/ Renowned	e/ A religion and social movement developed in Jamaica, influenced by Christianity, Ethiopianism, pan-Africanism and Black nationalism
6/ Late	f/ To repeat something, to return to an old song

<p>I can see clearly now the rain is gone          I can see all obstacles in my way          Gone are the dark clouds that had me <b>blind</b>          It's <b>gonna</b> be a <b>bright</b> (bright)          Bright (bright) <b>sunshiny</b> day          It's gonna be a bright (bright)          Bright (bright) sunshiny day          Oh, yes I can make it now the <b>pain</b> is gone          All of the bad feelings have disappeared          Here is that <b>rainbow</b> I've been <b>praying</b> for          It's gonna be a bright (bright)          Bright (bright) sunshiny day          look all around, there's nothing but blue skies          Look straight ahead, there's nothing but blue skies          I can see clearly now the rain is gone          I can see all obstacles in my way          Here is that rainbow I've been praying for          It's gonna be a bright (bright)          Bright (bright) sunshiny day...</p>	<p>To blind=to make it impossible to see          Gonna=slang, spoken English for “going to”          Bright=strong light (also intelligent)          Sunshiny=with a lot of sunshine, light when the sun is out          Pain=something which hurts</p> <p>Rainbow=coloured arc in the sky when the sun shines on rain          To pray=to talk to god. (<i>The Lord’s Prayer</i>=the formal, main incantation of Christianity)</p>
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Answers: 1/f; 2/a; 3/e; 4/b; 5/d; 6/c.