

Running up that hill.....

by Ella Mueller

The first time Kate Bush's "Running Up That Hill" played during *Stranger Things*, it didn't just fill the background. It actually took over the scene! Within seconds, the pulsing beat and urgent vocals made it clear this wasn't just another 80s throwback. It was the emotional heartbeat of the moment. The show didn't just reuse a classic; it proved that the song remains powerful nearly 40 years after its 1985 release.

At its core, "Running Up That Hill" is about the frustration of not being understood in a relationship. Bush's lyrics focus on the desire to "make a deal with God" and switch places with someone else to truly feel what they feel. That idea is specific and compelling. Instead of vaguely saying relationships are hard, she uses the metaphor of "running up that hill" to show the emotional exhaustion that comes when communication breaks down. The message feels honest, not dramatic, just for effect.

Musically, the song's strengths are clear. The driving synth beat creates urgency, and Bush's rising vocals build tension throughout the track. The production feels intense without being overwhelming. That balance is part of why it worked so effectively in *Stranger Things*, where it underscored themes of survival and emotional struggle. The show introduced the song to a younger audience, and streaming numbers surged after the episode aired, which is evidence that its impact is measurable, not just nostalgic.

However, the song's dramatic style may not appeal to everyone. Some listeners might find the repetitive chorus or 80s synth sound dated. Still, those elements are also what make it distinctive. Its bold production choices set it apart from more generic pop songs of its era.

Ultimately, "Running Up That Hill" endures because it combines a clear emotional message with striking musical choices. It doesn't rely on clichés about love or heartbreak. Instead, it focuses on empathy. The difficult, uphill effort of truly understanding someone else. That theme remains relevant, which explains why a song released in 1985 can still resonate with a new generation today.

The Duffer Brothers Masters of nostalgia and suspense

by Hayden Shaw

Matt and Ross Duffer, better known as the Duffer Brothers, have made a huge mark on modern TV with their show *Stranger Things*. They've managed to mix suspense, heart, and 1980s nostalgia in a way that feels fresh and exciting.

What makes the Duffers stand out is their focus on characters. Eleven's journey to understand herself, Mike's loyalty to his friends, and the Byers family's struggles all give the story real emotional weight. The monsters and mysteries are fun, but it's the relationships that make the show worth watching.

Visually, their work is impressive. The lighting, practical effects, and synth heavy soundtrack by Kyle

Dixon and Michael Stein make Hawkins feel like a world you can step into. Even small details, like the eerie glow of the Upside Down, show how much thought goes into every scene.

Of course, their shows aren't perfect. Some seasons get long, and too many 80s references can feel forced at times. But overall, they balance action, emotion, and nostalgia better than most creators today.

Bullied by the Demogorgon

by Sadie Flansburg

The scariest thing in *Stranger Things* isn't the monster from the Upside Down. It's the way kids treat each other when no one is watching.

Stranger Things may be known for its supernatural twists and 1980s nostalgia, but one of its stronger messages is about bullying and isolation. Beneath the flashing lights and government secrets, the show highlights how being "different" can turn someone into a target.

From the beginning, Will, Mike, Dustin and Lucas are labeled as "nerds." They play Dungeons & Dragons, ride bikes instead of cars, and don't fit Hawkins' definition of popular. The teasing might seem small, but it builds. It shapes how they see themselves and who they trust. That constant reminder that they are outsiders creates a quiet loneliness that follows them everywhere.