

Blackbird
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Music is a language and art of its own. It allows us to express aspects of life from relationships to social issues by intertwining melodic tunes with the verses to be heard and spoken through voices and instruments. "Blackbird" by The Beatles is one of their iconic yet undercurrent songs from their song list. It was on their White Album which debut in 1968. It was known as their acoustic hit of the album. The interesting part of this short hit is the message behind it. It's the message of racism. When talking about the lyrics Paul McCartney said in an interview with Diane Sawyer on GMA, "I wrote it in the '60s, when the civil rights movement was at its height," he said. "I liked to think of a blackbird as being a kind of symbol for a black woman." The imitation of this song was for the sole purpose of enhancing the image of racism and a way of hope for a better day and a better future than what was happening during the Civil Rights Movement.

When I found out the symbol of the blackbird I knew this song would be a perfect representation for a model. I chose this model based off of a few reasons. First is the fact that it deals with social issues and it gives a chance to be improved and or enhanced accordingly. Second is that when I first heard the lyrics and how short it truly was I believed that there is more to be said than just the repetition of the two verses followed by a chorus. I wanted to expand on the pieces of verses and lengthen the song but instead change some of the lyrics but not to the point of losing the main focus of the message about racism. I also thought with a slight change in order will give a better picture of what the creature is representing. Lastly is the fact that racism has been social

issue forever and always. One that has shown it's different sides in society and is one that should be shown in a light that was so dark during the times of segregation.

The process of improving lyrics was not one easy task. When I first picked this song the first thing I did was read through the lyrics themselves and just get a better understanding of the piece. I started to play the song in the background on repeat to get a feel of the rhythm and melody trying to fit all of the pieces together. As I listened to the song, I read the lyrics over and over trying to find a place of improvement or if parts could have been taken. I soon realized that every word counted and the best approach for me was to add and rearrange the lyrics. Since the song is only 2 minutes and 19 seconds and a good 15 seconds is instrumental I started to add verses. I decided to use the same outline of the verse by each verse starting with "Blackbird singing in the dead of the night" from there is where I started to add my own diction choice. The first verse I added was after the first verse of the song, which I kept as is. I made this verse about an image not mentioned in the song that focused on the voice. I put for the verse, "Take this shattered voice and learn to speak, All your life, You were only waiting for this moment to believe." My thought process for this verse was the importance of your audience. Since the audience of the time period was towards the Civil Right's Movement activists I was focusing on the voices that were torn down and shut off by society not given a chance to be heard or sought out as a human beings. The verse represents a testament of hope that one day what was believed by many activists will become reality for one's that were once looked down on. The second change was by taking a part of the chorus and putting it in between the two verses instead of having it repeated three times after the verses. My strategy was arrangement and how not only does it lengthen the song itself but it

emphasizes the image of the bird heading toward the light and out of the darkness. I also saw it as a good bridge after the verse talking about believing and now going into being seen and becoming free. The next adjustment I made was adding a verse that was similar to the one talking about sunken eyes. My verse is similar but says, "Take these tainted eyes and learn to see, All your life, You were only waiting for this moment to be seen." My approach for this lyric creation was repetition in a sense while also creating another image for eyes. I chose the word tainted for the sake of how everything was seen in black and white during that time and that all the "bird" wanted was a chance to be seen equally. The last change I made for the song was the last line of the song. Instead of having the same verse three times and ending it I added the last line saying, "We were only waiting for this moment to be free." The reason behind this was for the audience and making it seem that it was not only just for one "bird" instead it was for a flock that represented the Civil Rights Movement. It was a vision for all African Americans to be free from the cage of their skin tone and to become a part of society as an equal opportunist to live a life with all the same rights and no restrictions.

Blackbird was a symbol of all the darkness that erupted during that time period all surrounding the issue of racism. When choosing this song all that was going through my mind was that no matter how much I rearrange this song it will never lose its true purpose or intention. To give an audience that had seen and experienced so much unspeakable actions that can never be taken back that it will get better one day. Showing that all the sacrifices that were made aren't for nothing and that it was all for the greater good of this society. It proves that even with broken wings we learn to fly because one day we will be free and that day has already come.

"Blackbird" revised

Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly
All your life
You were only waiting for this moment to arise.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take this shattered voice and learn to speak
All your life
You were only waiting for this moment to believe.

Blackbird fly Blackbird fly
Into the light of the dark black night.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these tainted eyes and learn to see
All your life
You were only waiting for this moment to be seen.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see
All your life
You were only waiting for this moment to arise.

Blackbird fly Blackbird fly
Into the light of the dark black night.

Blackbird fly Blackbird fly
Into the light of the dark black night.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly
All of your life
You were only waiting for this moment to arise
You were only waiting for this moment to arise
You were only waiting for this moment to arise
We were only waiting for this moment to be free.