

Pretty Bird First Impressions

1. Read the lyrics to the song “Pretty Bird” by Wu Fei and Abigail Washburn. Write your initial response to the meaning of the song and what the bird may symbolize.

2. Listen to the song Pretty Bird by Abigail Washburn and Wu Fei. Write whether your response to the song meaning and what the bird symbolizes has changed or stayed the same. Why?

Pretty Bird Abigail Washburn Interview

Abigail Washburn and Wu Fei recorded the song Pretty Bird in 2019. Read the Interview with Abigail Washburn PDF on the song Pretty Bird. Based on her understanding of the song, what is the meaning behind the lyrics and what does the bird symbolize? How did this change from your initial understanding of the song?

Pretty Bird Hazel Dickens Article

The writer and original singer of the song *Pretty Bird* was Hazel Dickens. Hazel passed away in 2011 at the age of 75. Read the following Archive Spotlight from The Smithsonian's Folkways Magazine on Hazel Dickens. After reading the article and learning about Hazel's background, does song and what the bird symbolizes change or stay the same? Why?

<https://folkways.si.edu/magazine-spring-2011-remembering-hazel-dickens/bluegrass/music/article/smithsonian>

After reading the information from the Smithsonian's Folkways Magazine and the interview with Abigail Washburn, try and decode the possible literal meaning of each line in the last stanza of the song:

Fly far beyond the dark mountains

To where you will be free ever more

Fly away little pretty bird

Where the cold winter winds don't blow

In many ways today's society has some of the same issues Hazel Dickens dealt with when she released the song Pretty Bird in 1973. What could the "Pretty Bird" represent today? Make connections and give details to situations happening currently that are important to you. Write your explanation below and be prepared to present and defend your idea in your group when finished.

Why was a "pretty bird" used as the protagonist in the song Pretty Bird?

Based on your knowledge of the song meaning, what would be another effective protagonist instead of a “pretty bird”? Explain.

Based on your knowledge of the song meaning, what would be an ineffective protagonist used instead of a “pretty bird”? Explain.

Pretty Bird Song Connections

Connect this song to another song of your choice. Your song could be from any era or genre. Be sure and describe how it connects with *Pretty Bird* (ex. symbolism, theme, characters, tempo, literary elements). Your response must include an introduction, body and conclusion with a clear thesis statement in your introduction.

Pretty Bird Song Connections Rubric

Defined introduction/body/conclusion	/15
Song connection to theme of <i>Pretty Bird</i>	/10
Literary element connection to <i>Pretty Bird</i> (symbolism, theme, characters, tempo).	/10
Spelling/grammar	/10
Quality of writing	/5
Total	/50