

# POETRY IN MUSIC

N. Flood and S. Whyte - Second Year English

Wilson's Hospital School

## Topic Overview

Students are studying a unit of poetry under the theme of protest. We decided to pick a song which was linked to this theme and disguise it as a poem. We chose 'Blackbird' by The Beatles because the story behind the song linked closely to the themes of To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee which the students studied this year. Paul McCartney had a poetry book called 'Blackbird Singing' and had written the song about the racial tensions in the United States in 1968.

## Lesson Plan Outline

- Students were given an introduction to the lesson and task for the class was explained
- Students were given the worksheet which had blank spaces which they had to fill in
- Both teachers circulated around the classroom and helped the students write their poems
- Students were asked for their suggestions
- Some students were asked to read their poem aloud
- Song was played for students
- Explanation was given - what the poem was about and theme
- Links were made between poetry and song lyrics
- For homework students had to find another song



## Learning Outcomes

- Students will write their own version of Blackbird
- Students will make links between poetry and song
- Students will identify poetic techniques



Form 2 - English

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 these sunken eyes and learn to see  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to be free

Blackbird fly, blackbird fly  
Into the light of the dark black night

Students enjoyed the class and commented that it was more fun learning about poetry outside of the textbook. Students said the homework task was enjoyable. They all came up with great ideas and identified many poetic devices in their song choices.