

Moriah Dorame

English 450

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### Discovering Bliss

Redeeming yourself and being able to overcome anything is an amazing feeling. What one must remember is that if there is effort put into attempting to achieve, achievement will be reached. Being a dark place is only temporary if you chose it to be temporary. Just as the little Vietnamese girl ” ” in the chapter *Style* of Tim O’Brien’s “The Things They Carried, dances after her entire village just burned down, is a great example of how one can overcome sorrow. She is an amazing role model to anyone who finds themselves in a depressing place without any hope of finding gratification. This nameless character has given soldiers such as Azar and Henry Dobbins faith to prevail over the war they are in. Moriah Dorame’s musical interpretation “Escaping Darkness” shows how even within the depth of darkness of the mind, satisfaction can be discovered and achieved.

To begin with, the instruments in Moriah Dorame’s musical interpretation of the chapter *Style* in Tim O’Brien’s “The Things They Carried” are used to represent how the characters transform from despair to contentment. In the beginning of the song there are low drums that represent sadness and being in a dark place where light may not be visible. The low drums introduce the beginning of the chapter, where the girl is standing in a field of ash. At that moment everything had been burned down and all that she loved was gone. The drums eventually pick up tempo and that is the segment where glee takes its role. The deep whisper of the cello in the beginning in the song foreshadows the lightness that will eventually be found in

the deepest of obscurities. The mysterious cello represents light because even though the sound present themselves to act as a bass, they also have the ability to be high pitched, and the high pitched is used later in the melody of the song. Flutes, violins, and harps are used throughout a third of the song, mainly in the chorus of the song. These instruments represent the Vietnamese girl because those instruments are high pitch “girl” voices. The flutes and violins are instruments that represent light and happiness. Instruments are a

The additional instruments used in Dorame’s piece represent the characters and their journey from cheerlessness to contentment. Bassoon, trombone, and tuba are used throughout the entire piece and embody the character of Azar. Azar presents himself to be a cruel, arrogant, heartless soldier. Once observing the Vietnamese girl, he not only teases her but once retreated back to his camp, he mocks her by dancing. The low dispirited voice instruments are used for Azar because they have a deep tone representing negativity within his voice. Trumpets, saxophones, French horns, and more middle voice instruments are Dobbins. The middle voice instruments characterize Dobbins because he is more of a mediator and stands up for the Vietnamese girl but still takes part of taunting her towards the end of the chapter. Before the chorus and after the intro of the song, there is a muffled conversation between a bassoon and trumpet, and after the melody there is another conversation which seems to be delighted and lively. Dorame placed these two contrasting conversations because once Azar and Dobbins witnessed the Vietnamese girl dancing; they both felt a sense of bliss. If this young girl can dance and somehow find contentment in her entire village being burned into ashes, they can also find joy in the awfulness of the war they are in.

The dynamics that are used in “Escaping Darkness” symbolize tone and show how from enjoyment there is despair and from hopelessness there is hope. The crescendos in the middle of

the song through the end of the piece make the music go from very quiet and hushed to very loud and forceful. Most of the crescendos can be found in the chorus where the Vietnamese girl is metaphorically dancing. The crescendos emphasize that anyone can go from ecstasy to misery and then back to paradise again. In life one suffers the troubles of being successful and losing everything and going to a dark place, but eventually finds hope and gains everything and possibly more back. The song starts with a minimum of three instruments that all signify a somber feeling. Then as the song continues more instruments are added and once again taken away and back to several different type of instruments. The adding and subtracting of the instruments are all parts of the crescendos and decrescendo process. The more instruments added, the more thunderous the song appears to be. One can be alone and have nothing in the dark then once finding light they are not alone and are more successful.

The tempo that represents the movement in Moriah Dorame's piece has significant ways how one can transform from being in darkness to finding light. The tempo of the introduction of the song, being depressing and mysterious, transforms to a tempo of joy and glee. The tempo is a way that corresponds to how light mean more than darkness and eventually through melancholy it is important to find enjoyment because it will eventually overcome despair. The movements of the tempo being very cheerful and catchy are expressions how one will go through rough times, though with movement and dedication they can transform themselves from a dark place to a light place. The tempo stays consistent throughout the number providing a, at first, woeful feeling and once finding positivity, the song become more upbeat and enthusiastic finding its way out of doubt.

Conflicts in life are sometimes unexpected and terrifying, although no matter what the dilemma, they do not last very long with optimism and perseverance. Even when it seems as if

there is no way out of the terrible tragedies that are occurring, one can always find a way out of the catastrophe. Dorame manipulated music to express what she thought the Vietnamese girl was hearing in her head when she began to dance. The Vietnamese girl had everything taken away from her, but she did not allow it to consume her life and control how she would continue to live. She found happiness within her sorrow in a musical interpretation, which is why Moriah Dorame chose to compose a song to exemplify the Vietnamese girl's experience. Unhappiness does not have to last a life time; it can be reached with an endeavor of strength and determination. Do not allow depression to controller of life; allow it to be a motivation for happiness.