

Unit 4 – Learning to fly

The 4 pieces of a good story:

1. background → Who? / Where? / When?

Ex. It was a cold night and I was alone at home.

2. Storyline → What's happening now.

Ex. Suddenly, I heard a noise.

3. Flashback → What happened before.

Ex. I had forgotten to lock the door.

4. Monologue → What does the character think?

Ex. "This can't be happening..."

Bad version

I heard a noise. I was scared. I ran away.

Good version

It was midnight and I was home alone. Suddenly, I heard a noise from the kitchen. I had left the window open. "Someone is inside," I thought.

Link it with Grammar:

Background → Past Continuous *

Storyline → Past simple **

Flashback → Past Perfect

Monologue → Direct Speech

* When you pause the storyline and introduce a description, you use Past Continuous.

** When you talk about the steps in the storyline, you use Past Simple.

Analysis of the “blackbird” song:

1. Who / What is the blackbird?

The blackbird is symbolic, not just a literal bird. It represents oppressed people, especially Black Americans during the Civil Rights Movement.

2. What problem is described in the song?

The song describes struggle and oppression. The “broken wings” are the limitations and the injustice, the “sunken eyes” is the suffering and exhaustion, the “dead of night” are the dark and difficult times.

3. What is the message of the song?

The message is about hope, freedom, change and taking action. People are encouraged to rise up, overcome difficulties and believe in themselves.

4. “Take these broken wings and learn to fly” means that even if you are hurt or limited, you can still grow, improve and become free.

5. “You were only waiting for this moment to arise” means that change was always possible – people just needed the right moment and courage to act.

6. “Learn to see” means, becoming aware of reality, understanding injustice and seeing new possibilities.

7. “Into the light of the dark black night” means, moving from darkness to light, oppression to freedom and fear to hope.

*The message of the song is still relevant today as many people still face inequality, so the messages of hope and empowerment remains important.