Annotated Bibliography #1


Summary:
In “Everywhere is War: Peace and Violence in the Life and Songs of Bob Marley”, Brent Hagerman explores the two representations of Bob Marley that are prevalent in popular culture. Marley is either seen as a revolutionary figure or an icon of peace. These are two fairly simple representations, but by giving his songs a closer look, one can determine that he had more complex views on peace and violence than everyone thinks. The author believes the songs are so vague that there are various possible meanings to each song. It’s almost impossible to completely understand Bob Marley since he advocated for peace, but at the same time sang of revolution and occasional violence. Common themes that appear throughout his songs are racism, classism, dehumanization, and colonialism. Marley’s Rastafarian principles led him to believe that the black population was a victim of institutional violence caused by society. Examples of this institutional violence are police harassment, criminalization of ganja, and government owned radio stations refusing to play Reggae music.

Bias:
Yes this article as existing bias. The author is highly convinced that Bob Marley may not just of been an advocate for peace, but may have also approved of violence in certain situations. Instead of giving a full complete view of Bob Marley’s traits, he focuses on why violence reappears throughout his music.
I plan to use this article to help form my memorial. This article has a lot of interesting facts and interpretations about Bob Marley’s music, so I felt it would help to create a memorial. I can use some of his traits and achievements in order to come up with something that fits him.
Summary:
This is an article written by Inrungu Kang’ata in which the author explains why they have a love for Bob Marley. Kang’ata includes personal information about how she came to begin listening to Bob Marley. This is an opinion based article which provides facts about Bob Marley and explanations for why he’s an inspiration to others. Fans are often impressed by Bob Marley opting out of leading a ludicrous, flashy lifestyle. He lived very simply. He wore simple clothes, ate simple foods, and even spoke simple, despite his widespread fame. The author had a peaceful view of Marley, contrary to the article above. Instead of believing that Bob Marley somewhat supported violence, this article talks about how Marley wanted to simply cleanse the political system, not overtake or infiltrate it. The article also speaks about how Reggae is gradually becoming more and more popular.

Bias:
This a highly bias article, solely because it is so opinionated. The author is always talking about what she thinks. Even though facts are included, the author uses them to support her reasoning behind why Bob Marley is such an inspiring figure. If there were less personal opinions and more factual information, then I could say this article wasn’t bias.

Use:
This is such a helpful article for me to use! I love all the information given about Bob Marley. I can use this article to pinpoint the things that fans know and love about Bob Marley, and I can do my best to incorporate them into my memorial. Kang’ata had a very different view of Marley.
compared to Brent Hagerman, and I found it helpful to compare and contrast the two pieces of
literature. I felt as if this article properly relayed the public’s opinion of Bob Marley to me,
which will prove to be very valuable.
A Memorial for Bob Marley

An electric ripple courses through the crowd. The bass begins as an undertone and a mixture of African and European beats starts up, layered on top of the bass. The crowd breaks out into a mass of bodies moving to the rhythm, becoming one with the beat. It’s impossible to ignore the mystic vibe engulfing you. You’ve come to see Bob Marley, the King of Reggae; a simple man’s voice that became the voice of a nation. In choosing a memorial for him, I wanted to make sure that I was moving away from the popular image of Bob Marley. His popular image always includes smoking the herb and his peaceful and or revolutionary principles. This image of him has been so overused and sucked dry by society in my opinion that I was determined to create something that was out of the ordinary. It seems as if people had focused on only one perspective of Bob Marley for so long that a lot of the simple things that made him human became forgotten or overlooked. I wanted to give people something that they hadn’t necessarily seen before, something that brought the memory of Bob Marley back and could also put a smile on your face.

Bob Marley has always been portrayed as a peaceful figure. He strongly advocated for peace, and his beliefs were evident through his lyrics. Fans have always represented him as a peacenik with a streamlined message of peace, love, and unity for the world (Hagerman 381). There are many examples of Marley being a pacifist. An image of Bob Marley that properly represents this and has stayed in the minds of fans for years afterwards is the image of Bob Marley between Jamaica’s Prime Minister, Michael Manley and the opposition leader Edward Seaga. Their hands were joined together and held high above Bob Marley’s head. It’s a striking image, and displays unity like no other. (Hagerman 381)
This image has lost meaning throughout the years, and people, including me have grown tired of this being one of the only aspects of Marley’s beliefs that are focused on. What I have always liked the most about Bob Marley was his minimalist lifestyle. Even though he acquired fame and fortune throughout his life, he still upheld simplistic views. He in no way led a flashy lifestyle. This led me to make the first decision in the design of the memorial; something simple. I required something that would be able to represent his fame alongside his minimalist ideals.

Bob lived a very simple life- eating simple, wearing simple and talking simple despite his fame and wealth. The brilliance of his music saw him top charts in US, Japan and UK. He remained deeply religious to the end. Most musicians live flashy lifestyles to their graves. (Kang’ata 3)

Ironically enough, Marley owned a BMW. The BMW was in direct contrast with the rest of his lifestyle. Marley insists he only owned the BMW since it stood for “Bob Marley and the Wailers.” He publicly stated that he really didn't care that it was a luxury automobile; he just liked the coincidence of the initials (Romer). I thought that this was hilarious! I admire the model of the car very much, and I was drawn to the idea of using the car instantly.

To further personalize the memorial for Bob Marley, I want to include things that he is known for being passionate about. Religion was the first thing that came to mind. Marley’s interest in Rastafari grew as his exposure to Rastafarian ideas increased throughout the 1960’s. To learn more about the religion, he sought out Mortimo Planno, one of Jamaica’s most important Rastafarian’s. Planno became Marley’s spiritual advisor and encouraged him to spread Rastafari internationally though his music. He ultimately became the world’s most famous Rastaman, establishing the religion internationally and back home in Jamaica.
(Hagerman 385). I thought his Rastafarian ideals could be represented by the color of the car. I decided to have the car painted in red, yellow, and green. These three colors are the typical hues of the Rastafarians.

Earth, gravel, sand… green represents the homeland of Rastafarians: Ethiopia. The green is more than just a symbol, though. It is a call to action and a reminder that the Earth needs nurturing and protecting. Next up is the color yellow. Yellow represents the sun, light, and warmth. The light of Rastafari similarly shines on all of us, providing a source of one love, one light for everyone to share. Red is the final color. It symbolizes the blood of those in Africa and Jamaica. Red is a cry for equality and fairness that stems from oppression and struggle. (True Colors 2012).

On the sides of the car, there will be paintings of things that brought Marley joy. Bob Marley expressed love for football, or American soccer. I saw it to be absolutely necessary to have a soccer ball on the car somewhere. After more thought, I decided that a large soccer ball would be simple to paint onto the hood of the car. Bob Marley had it built in to his touring contracts that he should have ready access to a football pitch. Few people know how good of a footballer Bob really was. (“Bob Marley”). His friend, Trevor Wyatt remarked on his soccer abilities and said, “trying to get the ball off him… was just hopeless. Because Bob was the person he was, the ball always came to him. He was the midfield general, if you like, and they called him Skipper. They were so good, it was like playing Brazil.”

On the sides of the car would be paintings of people who were important to Bob Marley. People who were most prominent in his life were his wife, Rita Anderson, and his children. Bob Marley and Rita were married on February 10th of 1966. Together they had four children during
their marriage. In addition, Bob Marley had eight more children with eight different women (not including his wife.) Rumor has it that there are several other “unclaimed” or “forgotten” children. (Bob Marley 2011). Since most, if not all of the Marley children are known, I wanted them to be painted onto the right doors of the car, along with Bob and Rita Marley. I picture that Bob Marley and Rita could be holding hands in the middle of the door, and on the left and right sides of them they would be holding hands with the many Marley children.

I couldn’t forget about The Wailers of course! Bob Marley and his childhood friend Neville Livingston (Bunny Wailer) attended vocal classes held by Joe Higgs. Higgs was a successful singer who mentored many young singers. Higgs introduced Bob and Bunny to Peter (Macintosh) Tosh. The three of them quickly became good friends and thus, Bob Marley and the Wailers were formed. As a band, they played the genres of Jamaican reggae and Ska. By late 1963, Junior Braithwaite, Beverley Kelso, and Cherry Smith had joined the Wailers. (Wailers). Even though Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer left the band in 1974, and Marley recruited new members, I wanted the painting on the left doors to be of just the original three Wailers: Bob, Bunny, and Peter. They should be painted as they are performing, and with smiles on their faces.

The last thing I felt necessary to include on the BMW was his love and pride for Jamaica and Africa. As a cultural icon, Bob Marley urged people of color to know their history. (“Bob Marley”). In “Why I Love and Celebrate Bob Marley,” Irungu Kangata says, “Bob possessed one attribute that we lack; deep genuine love for Africa. This theme is characteristic in most of his musical composition and speech”. His passion for both of these countries can be represented by the final two paintings. Since the hood and doors are already taken, this only leaves the rear of the car. On the back of the car, I envision the general shape of the countries being outlined, and
the inner colors being the National colors for each country; Africa’s are green, black, and red, Jamaica’s colors are green, yellow, and black. I want this memorial to lie in Bob Marley’s home country of Jamaica. Located in Kingston, there is a museum dedicated to Bob Marley. This would prove to be a good home for the memorial, and would add to the viewing experience of the museum.

While researching types of memorials for the earlier stages of this paper, I remembered a quote that I had once heard. “Memorials are more for the living than the dead.” This quote helped me to create the BMW idea. Not many of the deceased get to design their own memorials. Memorials are usually designed my immediate family or friends, and little to no creativity is put into them. They are either statues or headstones and can never truly reflect the life of the person who has passed. I wanted to create something that would overwhelmingly bring back the memory of Bob Marley and to include things that gave his life meaning, besides his fame. I am confident that the choices I made for this memorial properly display the respect, and appreciation I have for Bob Marley as a person.
Works Cited


