Song:
Nujabes (ft. Cise Star, Akin Yai) - Feather

Parts of presentation:

Section	Name
Artist Background / Song Background (1)	Sean
Describing the music: Music related (2)	Branden
Describing the music: Idea related (3)	Jose M
How the music makes the listener feel (4)	Peter

Artist Background and Song Background

This song was released in 2005 by Nujabes as part of their album, "Modal Soul". Nujabes, whose real name was Jun Seba, was a well known Japanese producer and DJ. Nujabes was known for his iconic mixes of hip-hop and jazz. The lyrics were written and sung by an American rapper called Cise Starr. This is one of many successful songs that the two collaborated on. Nujabes sadly passed away in 2010 at the age of 36, while the song "Feather" has continued to gain millions of views even after his death.

Describing the music

Music Related:

    Notable Aspects:
- Instruments: Piano, drums, bass, muted trumpet

a. Pulse / Frequency
    i. The song begins with a warm piano. A few measures in, it introduces a snappy drum and a bass. Assuming that this song is in 4 4 measure, every 2 measures there is a consistent, regular pattern or **pulse**. This creates the structure of the song.
    ii. The mix of the light, jazzy piano, and the snappy drums, and the deep bass makes the range of frequency quite wide.

b. Waveform / Amplitude
    i. Smooth waveform, like you are floating.
    ii. Studio-like, enough to hear the rich tones and beats. It does not seem too loud nor too quiet. It as if Nujabes does not want the listener to be overwhelmed, but instead welcomed. Nujabes want his listeners to hear him out.

c. Space / Body

      i.   Warm, bassy, rich texture. The space in this song strecthes beyond a certain genre. It has become a genre of itself. The blend of these instruments creates this rich and complex sound combining both melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic elements.

     ii.   Song makes you feel escapism. The piano, drum, and bass blends together to create a cloud like experience while hearing.

Idea Related:

a. Memory

And I drove the Chevy to the Levy/
But the Levy was dry, singing "This will be the day that I die"

The last lines are an allusion to the famous song by Don McLean "American Pie", in which the original intent of those lyrics were to invoke nostalgic feelings about American tradition, however McLean feels like those levies are all dried up, signifying that the era of tradition is over. Similarly, Nujabes uses this same concept but rather

b. Politics

Throughout the track, Nujabes comments his own political commentary, with one of the first instances being:

Seeing the headlines lined with discord/
It's either genocide or the planet in uproar/
Never good. The rules of paradise are never nice

Here he is referencing all the negative news that is constantly portrayed in the media. He is making light of the fact that negative news gets more views than if positive news was broadcasted

Another political reference Nujabes mentions is once again with the news, expanding on race issues

Watchin' propaganda six o'clock news and it's saying/
Cultures clash, poor black folk and white trash

Here, he expresses his distrust in mainstream media and how people should not trust the media for a reliable source of information when they themselves spread their own propaganda. This leads to a biased perspective of each "side" to each other, creating a fabricated tension.

      c. religion
      d. love and sex

Feelings of Listener:

Feather is an uplifting track about rising above the absurdism and cruelty the world sometimes has to offer, and achieving a state of enlightened acceptance of the things one cannot change. Lyrical choices like:

> Drifting away like a feather in air
> Letting my soul take me away from the hurt and despair

relates the acts of moving away from worldly qualms and struggles to the overcoming and acceptance of these harsh realities. The further one moves from the shackles of doubt and worry, the "lighter" they become, elevating higher and higer:

> So I'm keeping it vertical forever elevator
> Riding the escalator to reach something that is greater

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