A Compelling Voice

Joan Baez represents Carlos Santana’s idea of having an open heart and being an instrument of peace through her actions, passion, and desire of wanting to reach her goals. She didn’t give up. She uncovered the Earth for what it truly was, a world full of abject poverty and violence. Joan Baez used her haunting and enthralling music to spread an important message of peace through people. She not only used music, she joined marches and spoke to others to prove her point.

Joan Baez did not live a perfect childhood. She suffered from racial prejudice because she was Hispanic. She was born in 1941 which was before other historical figures made a stand to protect the rights of people of different race and color. She was discriminated almost everywhere she went. She was disliked among others. She was the outsider. People tried to drag her down but she fought and climbed up to the top. Being discriminated like that encouraged her to take some action in helping others protect who they are. It’s one of the traits I admire about her. She taught me that you shouldn’t be ashamed of where you come from no matter what others say. She showed me that you shouldn’t judge anyone on appearance, only on what’s inside. It’s not the looks that make a person but rather their character. She didn’t stop there. Joan traveled to different countries and witnessed the poverty in different parts of the world which affected her as an activist. She became a singer, and with her power of fame, she was able to use it towards her advantage.

Joan Baez used her powerful weapon, a guitar, to create peace. She poured her heart out through her guitar strokes and melancholy voice about the violence in the world she encountered that had people weeping for tranquility in the place they thought was safe. She marched alongside Martin Luther King Jr. for civil rights because she was once a victim of discrimination. She accomplished what she wanted because years later, all people of different races got equal rights and now share the world. She marched alongside Cesar Chavez in the United Farm Workers organization and gained victory when workers got their rights. She did all this because she wanted the people to help stop the chaos and bring serenity to this world. She gave benefit concerts for a large variety of human causes. She was thrown in jail a few times for her protesting but that didn’t stop her. She was determined to accomplish her goal of nonviolence, whether it was joining protesting groups or using her fame and music to help spread the work and support the cause.

Joan Baez showed people that it’s possible to go after what you want. There were powerful, influential people who fought beside her and supported her as she supported them. She’s a person I admire because she hung on to her dreams. Holding on to your dreams with others criticizing you on a daily basis is like holding on by a thread when you are at the edge of a cliff, but Joan did what I thought was impossible. I had thought of giving up my own goals for the future, but when I heard about her achievements, I knew that I would be able to make it through. It doesn’t matter what color or race you are, we all have a dream and a voice that should be heard. Joan Baez, without a doubt, possesses the biggest, wide open heart and the most powerful weapon of peace in her bare hands.