Over the Rainbow

Somewhere over the rainbow

Way up high

There’s a land that I heard of

Once in a lullaby

Somewhere over the rainbow

Skies are blue

And the dreams that you dare to dream

Really do come true

Someday I'll wish upon a star

And wake up where the clouds are far

Behind me

Where trouble melts like lemon drops

Away above the chimney tops

That's where you'll find me

Somewhere over the rainbow

Bluebirds fly

Birds fly over the rainbow

Why then, oh why can’t I?

If happy little bluebirds fly

Beyond the rainbow

Why, oh why can’t I ?

Just considering the title the reader may think that the song tells about an imaginary world, since there are a lot of legends that talks about gnomes that live over the rainbow.

Moving forward with the analysis of the structure, you can see that the song follow a regular patterm: all verses have 4 line. Only the chorus and the outro have a different length since they have a different function. The chorus has six line and the outro 3.

In every stanza there is a shorter line. Especially “behind me” is the shortest in the song.

Now considering each stanza, the first one confirms the first idea of a imaginary world, since the word “lullaby” connote something unreal. The actions take place in the sky as we can deduce from the expression “way up high” and from the word “rainbow”.

In the second stanza the idea of the action in the sky is confirmed by the word “sky”.

The topic that the world “lullaby” gives to the reader mind, that is the idea of dream, since the lullaby is the song that parents sing to their children to make them fall asleep, is recovery by the sentence “And the dreams that you dare to dream/ really do come true”.

The song seem to want the reader to imagine the dream to be true in the world over the rainbow.

The chorus starts with “will” that makes the reader realized that the speaking voice is talk about a dream.

The speaking voice talks about how much he/she wants to go to the imaginary world (“wake up where the clouds are far behind me”). The speaking voice describes the imaginary world as a place where there aren’t problems, as the reader can understand from the sentence “trouble melts like lemon drops”. The magic world over the rainbow makes your daily issues go away.

In the third verse the speaking voice seems frustrated in front of the impossibility to go over the the rainbow ( “why can’t I? “ ). The speaking voice is jealous of the freedom of the birds that can go where he/she wants too.

The outro reclaim the third verse. It intensifies the frustration of the speaking voice that highlight that the birds that go over the rainbow are happy while she is not.

I think that the song talks about the will of the people of escape from the daily issues of life and the daily research of an happy and peaceful place.