

Straighten Things Out "We Wear The Mask"

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("We Wear the Mask" is a lyric poem about oppressed black

Americans, forced to hide their pain and frustration behind a façade of happiness and contentment)

We wear the mask that grins and lies,
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes, —
This debt we pay to human guile;
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,
And mouth with myriad subtleties.
Why should the world be over-wise,
In counting all our tears and sighs?
Nay, let them only see us, while
We wear the mask.

We smile, but, our cries
From tortured souls arise.
We sing, but oh the clay is vile
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;
But let the world dream otherwise,
We wear the mask!

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