

Caged Bird

BY MAYA ANGELOU

A free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn
and he names the sky his own

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

Directions:

Cut this paper in half and glue the poem in your composition book. Then read, annotate, and complete some sketchnotes on the poem. Re-Read the poem "Caged Bird" and apply it to the novel TEWWG. Answer these questions on the following page of your composition book.

1. Identify the tone and central theme of this poem. Pay close attention to the caged bird/free bird dilemma.
2. Find 3 separate quotes from chapter 4 of TEWWG that relate to a caged bird/free bird and copy them.
3. Write TDQ using the three quotes to answer the following question: in what ways does Janie compare to a caged bird? A free bird?