



Subject:- English Literature

Grade :- 11

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I know why the caged Bird sings (Maya Angelou)

Reading the poem for critical understanding

1. The poet uses the ‘caged bird’ as an extended metaphor in the poem identify it and discuss.
2. What is meant by the following phrases?
 - ‘His bars of rage’
 - ‘His wings are clipped
 - “His feet are tied’
3. How does the writer describe the feelings of the caged bird?
4. What is symbolized by the cage?
5. Apply the following situations to the idea expressed through the poem.
 1. Poverty and ignorance
 2. Class and caste
 3. Racism
 4. Political conflicts
 5. War and violence
 6. Social inequalities
 7. Gender discriminations
6. What is symbolized by “The clipped wings”

7. How does the poet contrast the situations of the two birds?
8. What imagery of the caged bird arouses our sympathy?
9. How does the writer express the following ideas?
 - A bird trapped within a cage is not free to come and go as he pleases.
 - He cannot fly freely in the wind or claim the sky as his own.
10. How does the poet Angelou depict the anger and frustration felt by the oppressed.