



**INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR**  
**QUESTION BANK**

<b>Class: VIII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>January 2021</b>
<b>WORKSHEET NO:</b>	<b>Topic: Caged Birds</b> <i>By Maya Angelou</i>	<b>Note: To be written in notebook</b>

Q1. Answer the following questions.

1. What does the phrase 'his bars of rage' imply?
2. How has the poetess brought out the theme by juxtaposing the free and the caged birds?
3. Explain the expression 'a fearful trill'?
4. What does the caged bird sing of and why?

Q2. Reference to Context

1. *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.*
  - a. What is the 'free bird' free to think?
  - b. What does he feed on?
  - c. What does the poetess imply by 'he names the sky his own'?
2. *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.*
  - a. What does the phrase 'the grave of dreams' imply?
  - b. What do you think a caged bird can't do with his wings clipped?
  - c. Why does he start singing?

Q3. Think and Answer.

1. Who do you think the 'free bird' and the 'caged bird' represent?

2. 'Just living is not enough.... One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.' - Hans Christian Andersen  
Comment on the importance of freedom in light of the above statement.

### Answers

- Q1.** 1. The phrase 'his bars of rage' implies that the bars instill anger in the caged bird.  
2. The free bird is free to do anything, on the other hand, the caged bird's aspirations are as trapped as himself.  
3. 'A fearful trill' refers to the soft, sweet, high-pitched sound a bird makes when it is nervous.  
4. The caged bird sings of freedom because he longs for it.
- Q2.** 1. a. The free bird is free to think about anything. Nobody and nothing dictate its thoughts.  
b. The free bird feasts on fat worms.  
c. By saying 'he names the sky his own' Maya Angelou means that the bird owns the sky, he is that free.  
2. a. The phrase 'the grave of dreams' implies that the caged bird's dreams have died within the cage.  
b. With his wings clipped a caged bird can no longer fly.  
c. He sings because he cannot fly and needs to give vent to his frustrations.
- Q3.** Think and Answer.  
1. The 'caged bird' represents the African Americans who were oppressed mindlessly by the white people who are the 'free birds'.  
2. Please write down your views.