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“I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”

1. Which lines from the poem show that the caged bird has never been free?

A. “his wings are clipped and / his feet are tied / so he opens his throat to sing.”

B. “his tune is heard / on the distant hill / for the caged bird / sings for freedom.”

C. “But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams / his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream”

D. “The caged bird sings / with a fearful trill / of things unknown /but longed for still”

1. What does the caged bird’s singing reveal about him?

A. He is terribly unhappy.

B. He does not want to fly.

C. He is afraid to be free.

D. He does not want to be heard.

1. Why does the caged bird sing?

A. It wants to challenge the free bird.

B. It has to make others feel good.

C. It wants to entertain people.

D. It has only one way to express itself.

4. Read these lines from the poem.

“But a bird that stalks down his narrow cage/can seldom see through his bars of rage”

What do these lines reveal about the caged bird?

A. The caged bird focuses on his anger.

B. The caged bird is aware of its surroundings.

C. The caged bird has difficulty flying.

D. The caged bird is satisfied with its life.

1. According to the poem, the free bird can best be described as…

A. content.

B. hungry.

C. cautious.

D. thoughtful.

1. What is the main conflict in this poem?

A. The caged bird hates the free bird.

B. The caged bird wants the life of the free bird.

C. The free bird laughs at the caged bird.

D. The free bird cannot sing as well as the caged bird.

1. The word *trill* in lines 9 and 21 probably means…

A. a rhythm

B. a trembling sound

C. a melody

D. a chorus

1. What is this poem mainly about?

A. Freedom, Free Will and Autonomy

B. The lives of free vs. caged birds

C. Finding the joy in life and singing to celebrate

D. The dreams of birds who cannot fly

1. What is the effect of the trees sighing in this verse?

A. It indicates that the wind is soft.

B. It shows the trees are sleeping.

C. It indicates that the bird is carefree.

D. It shows the bird must deal with the wind.