

# CLASS NOTES

Class: VII

Topic: The Caged Bird

Subject: English



## Reading Comprehension: -

### B. Answer these questions in 30-40 words-

1. What does the poet wish to imply by the lines 'a free bird leaps on the wind and floats downstream'?

Ans- By the line 'a free bird leaps on the wind and floats downstream', the poet wishes to imply that the free bird readily takes flight with the wind that passes by. It is free to soar with the wind and float gently downstream because its wings are not clipped and its feet are not tied.

2. The poet says that the caged bird sings with a 'fearful trill'. Why do you think she uses the word 'fearful' here?

Ans- The caged bird sings with a fearful trill because it is apprehensive of what dangers its song may lead into. It has lost confidence after being confined and it does not feel free to sing; it is afraid of the atrocities it may be subjected to.

3. Where is the song of caged bird heard? What does he sing of?

Ans- The song of the caged bird is heard on a distant hill. He sings of freedom and things unknown but longed for still.

### C. Answer these questions in 80-100 words-

1. How does the poet contrast the free bird and the caged bird?

Ans- The poet contrasts the free bird and the caged bird by using a number of images. The free bird joyfully leaps on the back of the wind and floats downstream till the current ends. He soars to claim the sky while the caged bird stalks down his narrow cage. His wings are clipped and his nails are tied; he is frustrated and angry at his plight. He opens his throat to sing with a fearful trill of things unknown yet longed for still. He sings of freedom which he does not have and his tune is heard on a distant hill. The free bird sings of another breeze, the trade winds that move softly through the sighing trees and the fat worms in the bright lawn. The caged bird on the other hand stands

on the grave of dreams; he has nothing to look forward to and he only opens his throat to sing of things that he longs for and cannot get.

2. What effect do you think rhyme and repetition have in this poem?

Ans- There is no definite rhyme scheme in the poem. In the first stanza there is no set rhyme scheme; this enables the reader to feel the freedom of the free bird as it soars on the back of the wind. The reader's attention is drawn to the main focus of the poem – the contrast between the free bird and the caged bird. There are words that rhyme in the stanzas: leaps, ends, rays; cage; rage; trill, still, hill. As the poem is read, it almost produces a musical effect. The last stanza is the repetition of the third stanza and this repetition serves to draw the reader's attention to the plight of the caged bird which stands oppressed and suffers under the shackles imposed on it.

### Appreciation of the poem-

**Imagery-** It is the literary device that refers to the use of figurative language to evoke a sensory experience or create a picture with words for a reader. By utilizing effective descriptive language and figures of speech, writers appeal to reader's senses of sight, taste, smell, touch, and sound, as well as internal emotion and feelings.

For example- The autumn leaves are a blanket on the ground.

The coat felt like a velvet curtain.

Write the lines which portray the anger and frustration of the caged bird.

*A caged bird stalks  
down his narrow cage  
can seldom see through  
his bars of rage  
and  
stands on the grave of dreams  
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream  
show the anger and frustration of the caged bird.*

Absolutely prepared at home.


