

Name: _____ # _____

Morning Work 1/25/2012

Reading: I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings

Author: Maya Angelou

The free bird leaps on the back of the wind
and floats downstream till the current ends
and dips his wings 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 fearful trill
of the 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 fearful trill
of the things unknown but longed for still
and his tune is heard on the distant hill
for the caged bird sings of freedom

1. What is the main idea of this poem?

2. Highlight an example of personification and explain the meaning.

3. According to the poem, why does the caged bird sing? Provide at least two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.

4. On the back of this paper, try and color a detailed picture that represents this poem