

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2026- 2027

NOTES

Class - VIII

Subject - English

Topic - CAGED BIRD (POEM)

Q1. RTS-

(a) The free bird lives by enjoying his freedom. He enjoys flying in the sky with the wind. He 'leaps' on the back of the wind and 'floats downstream', indicating that he has the freedom to do whatever he feels like doing. There are no restrictions and he even 'dares' to claim the sky as his owl.

(b) It means that the free bird enjoys flying as high as he can and even claims the sky as his own.

(c) The free bird symbolises people who live in this world unencumbered by prejudice of any type, whether it be racial, socioeconomic or psychological. The bird also symbolises the dream of the Black Americans of being free.

2.

(a) The caged bird is confined in his 'narrow cage'. He can seldom see through his bars of rage. This means that due to his anger and pain a. his condition, the caged bird can barely see past his sorrow. His wings are clipped and feet bound, which depicts how cruelly his freedom has been taken away from him.

(b) The word 'clipped' means 'cut'. The wings of the caged bird have been cut so that he is not able to fly. Even his feet have been tied or bound so that he is not able to walk. In other words, the caged bird doesn't even have the freedom to move properly in his small cage.

Q2. Answer the following questions in detail-

1. The song of the caged bird is heard on the distant hill. Even though he is imprisoned in his tiny cage, the bird is able to sing. He sings of freedom, and his song or tune travels to distance places.

2. The free bird symbolises the people who are fortunate enough to live a life of freedom. They don't have to suffer discrimination of any kind. The free bird also symbolises the White community, which enjoys freedom at the expense of the Black Americans.

3. All dreams of the caged bird are dead because the bird has given up hope of achieving them. The bird stands on a grave where all his dreams are buried. However, in spite of his miserable condition, he sings of freedom.

4. The message of the poem is to cherish and treasure the freedom that we all take for granted. It is only when this freedom is denied that we understand its value. In the poem, the free bird enjoys his freedom, flying in the open. sky while the caged bird is imprisoned in a 'narrow cage', with his wings clipped and feet bound. He can only sing of freedom because, standing on the grave of his dreams, he has lost the hope of ever being free.