

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ.

SESSION: 2020-2021.

CLASS: 10 A, B, C, D, E & F.

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

WORKSHEET NO.02.

Instructions: Parents are to ensure that the child spends two days to read and understand the lesson and to find meanings of hard words and phrases and thereafter answer the questions that follow:

Note: Books:

1. Treasure Trove A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories for Class- IX & X.
2. Workbooks: Treasure Trove A Collection Of ICSE Poems By D.D. Halder Selina .
3. Treasure Trove Vol I Poems by Xavier Pinto Beeta Publications.

Link:- You Tube Video Explanation by Luna Bannerji.

Lesson: I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings. By Maya Angelou.

Question 1. Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

A free bird leaps on the back
Of the wind and floats downstream
Till the current ends and dips his wing
In the orange sun rays and dares to claim the sky.

- I. Who is referred to as the free bird? Why?
- II. How is the action of the bird shown as free and enjoyable?
- III. 'A free bird leaps on the back of the wind' what does the poetess mean?
- IV. Explain 'Orange sun rays'. Why has the poetess mentioned it?
- V. How does the free bird 'dare to claim the sky'?

Question 2. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

But the bird that stalks down the 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.

- I. What is the theme of the poem?
- II. Why does the poetess begin the stanza with 'but'? To whom is the caged bird compared?
- III. What are the limitations of a caged bird?
- IV. Why are the wings of the caged bird clipped? What is the meaning of 'clipped'?
- v. Why do you think the cage is narrow? What is meant by "his bars of rage?"

Question3. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

The caged bird sings with a fearful trill
For things longed for still
And his tune is heard on the distant hill
For the caged bird sings of freedom.

- I. What is the comparison drawn up with the caged bird and the feelings of the poetess?
- II. What is a fearful trill? Why is the bird 'fearful'?
- III. Why is the sound of the bird wavering? What does he sing of?
- IV. What is 'Freedom' for the caged bird? Has he ever experienced it?
- V. What idea do you get of the African Americans from this stanza?

Question 4. Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

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 names the sky his own

- I. What do you understand by 'another breeze'? Why does the free bird think of 'another breeze'?
- II. What do 'trade winds' and 'fat worms symbolize?
- III. How does the poetess use contrast between the two birds to reveal racism in American society?
- IV. What is the significance of 'sighing trees'?
- V. What is meant by 'names the sky his own'?

Question 5. Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow :

But the 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.

- I. Explain 'Grave of dreams 'and 'his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream'?
- II. In what way does the caged bird stand on the 'grave of dreams'?
- III. Why does the bird open his throat to sing? What does he hope to achieve?
- IV. How has the poetess described nature in this poem?
- V. What is the message of the poetess?

*** END***