



Caged Bird Analysis

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Black and White

First of all, this poem is using an extended metaphor, although the poem doesn't tell you any races directly, it is talking about how caged bird (black) are watching the free birds (white) having the freedom and starts to make voice in order to gain freedom.

“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.”



Free Bird and Caged Bird

In this poem there are two major symbolism used.

First is the Free Bird “A 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.” this free bird is representing white people which is suppressing the caged bird and having freedom.

Second is the Caged Bird “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.” if the free bird is the white people, the caged bird is representing the black people, and also the Cage is representing how black people were taken their freedom away.



Symbolism

In the poem, there are more symbolism used.

“fat worms waiting on the dawn bright lawn” Fat worm is the symbol for wealth, which the free bird can get while the caged bird can not.

In comparison to the fat worm, "caged bird stands on the grave of dreams” In this sentence, Grave is a symbol for death, if the caged bird is standing on the grave of dreams, it means caged birds can't have dreams or already give up on it.





Metaphor

As said first, the entire poem is an metaphor and it is talking about the relationships between white and black people, although it only talks about caged and free birds. It also have some more metaphor in it.

In stanza three of the poem, it says, “The free bird thinks of another breeze... And the fat worms waiting on the dawn bright lawn”. The breeze and fat worms are metaphors for all the opportunities and hopes that the whites had and which the blacks didn't have. The author also used auditory devices of alliteration and assonance to make an continuous flow to the poem, since it is actually pretty long and gets dull.



Rhyming and Meter

There is no definite rhyme scheme through out this poem, so it is more like a blank verse. There is few rhyming in it but that is only used to get the reader into and to remember the poem, or it maybe rhymed by an accident.

Also there is no meter seen in this poem.



Imagery

In the poem, sense of sight is used many times, creating a very detailed picture for the reader. One example of when this technique is shown is “A 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”. In this example, reader can see a picture of the free bird enjoying life and making the most of it. The descriptive words such as dips, floats, and leaps helps the reader seeing the picture of it.

The sense of sound is also used throughout the poem. An example of this sense in the poem is “The caged bird sings with a fearful trill...and his tune is heard on the distant hill”. From this detail, the reader can feel the pain of the bird and can imagine the way the caged bird sings. In the example fearful, trill, and tune is heard on a distant hill are the words used to sense it.