Caged Bird (by Maya Angelou)

 A free bird leaps

 on the back of the wind

 and floats downstream

 till the current ends

*5* and dips his wing

 in the orange sun rays

 and dares to claim the sky.

 But a bird that stalks

 down his narrow cage

*10* can seldom see through

 his bars of rage

 his wings are clipped and

 his feet are tied

 so he opens his throat to sing.

*15* The caged bird sings

 with a fearful trill

 of things unknown

 but longed for still

 and his tune is heard

*20* 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

25 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

30 so he opens his throat to sing.

 The caged bird sings

 with a fearful trill

 of things unknown

 but longed for still

35 and his tune is heard

 on the distant hill

 for the caged bird

 sings of freedom.