

LO: To use an author's writing as a model for my own.

1. Look at the *Caged Bird* picture.

Consider these questions:

Why do you think someone might keep a bird in a cage like that?

What does it make you think?



2. Read *Caged Bird – First Verses* (the poem below)

Read each verse twice: once in your head, once out loud. Each verse is just one sentence, so read so that it flows to the end.

Caged Bird – First Verses

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.

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.

Maya Angelou, The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou Virago, 1995

3. Write the next verse to the above poem, describing the bird in the cage.

Try to include:

- Echoing words e.g. wind and wing (they sound similar)
- Alliteration e.g. sun rays dares sky
- Strong verbs e.g. leaps/dares
- Nouns to do with the natural world e.g. sun, stream, wind, sky