

FULL Names:

Hr:

## Paul Laurence Dunbar –

Maya ALLUDES to this poem w/ the title of her book



### Sympathy

I know what the caged bird feels, alas!  
When the sun is bright on the upland slopes;  
When the wind stirs soft through the springing grass,  
And the river flows like a stream of glass;  
When the first bird sings and the first bud opes,  
And the faint perfume from its chalice steals--  
I know what the caged bird feels!

I know why the caged bird beats his wing  
Till its blood is red on the cruel bars;  
For he must fly back to his perch and cling  
When he fain would be on the bough a-swing;  
And a pain still throbs in the old, old scars  
And they pulse again with a keener sting--  
I know why he beats his wing!

I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,  
When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,--  
When he beats his bars and he would be free;  
It is not a carol of joy or glee,  
But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,  
But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings--  
I know why the caged bird sings!

1. How does the **DICTION** (word choices) of this poem help create the **MOOD**? State the MOOD AND CIRCLE the words choices (diction) that help create the mood. Consider the **CONNOTATION** (emotional association) of each word.

Turn Over the Page

2. What is the **THEME** of this poem?
  
3. **EXTENDED METAPHOR.** What does the bird represent? What does the cage represent?

### **CHALLENGE ZONE / Google Search**

4. Maya acknowledges that the title of her autobiography is an **ALLUSION** to the poem titled "Sympathy" by Paul Laurence Dunbar listed on the other side of this paper. However, a recent singer later was inspired by Maya's **AUTO BIOGRAPHY** title and makes an allusion to the book / *Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* in her song. Who is the singer? What is the title of the song? You will need to do a Google search to answer this question. What words might you have to search?
  
5. **MAKING CONNECTIONS ACROSS TEXTS:** Quote a line from the song mentioned above in the prior question. List it below and relate it to the poem "Sympathy" OR to Maya's life based on what you know from the pre-reading activities we have done so far.