The caged bird

Maya Angelou was a civil right activist and famous American poet. She was the prominent black female actress and dancer who stood against racism and was part of King Martin Luther's agenda of supporting blacks. In her poem "Caged Bird" she incorporates effective poetic devices including metaphors, rhyme and imagery. The poetic device is employed for contrasting the caged bird with an American America.

The bird in the poem serves as a metaphor, portraying the state of oppressed blacks in America. The metaphor is apparent in the line, "But a bird that stalks, down his narrow cage. Can seldom see through, his bars of rage” (Angelou). The analysis of the stanza depicts that Angelou used metaphors for providing the deeper meaning of her poem to the readers. This allows readers to feel the oppression experienced by blacks in America. Through metaphors, the readers identify similarities between the bird and American-Americans. the poetic device builds close relevance between the two as blacks people in oppression were caged like birds.

Imagery is used by Angelou in her poem for providing a realistic description to the readers. the use of imagery allows readers to witness the picture of racism and inequality. They learn through the state of bird that the black people suffered injustice and inhumanity. Imagery is visible in the line, "for the caged bird, sings for freedom" (Angelou). This brings readers to a position where they visualize the struggles of black people for freedom. The poetic device plays an effective role in transmitting the message of the poet.

Rhyme is used for adding similar sounds that make the poem interesting. The readers enjoy the repetition apparent in ‘breeze', ‘trees', ‘lawn' and ‘own'. The inclusion of rhyme focuses on the last syllable. Different sounds invoke the feelings of the readers.

Work Cited

Angelou, Maya. Caged Bird. 1969. 25 03 2019 <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/48989/caged-bird>.