

My drawing is based on the poem Caged Bird by Maya Angelou. I drew a colorful bird in a black cage made out of the poem's words. This poem is very meaningful and power. Because it states that even with clipped wings, tied feet, narrow quarters, and bars of rage the bird is still able to survive, thrive and soar through its song. In the beginning she talks about a free bird who is able to live freely and happily, representing the life of the person not of color with less criticism and hardships because of something they can't control such as color. Later the poem talks about the free bird that although struggling and caged still opens his mouth to sing, this represents the struggle of a colored person that even though faces criticism towards their skin color, still stand up for themselves and fight for what they believe in just like how the caged bird still sings. I made the background white and the cage black to represent the dullness the world is tainted with because of racism and ignorance, and I colored the bird to represent the bright and strong people that still fight in spite of the dullness.

Karina Oliveira

Stamford High School, 10th Grade