

Topic: Imagine you are a pet bird in a cage. One day your owner left your bird cage open. Write a story from the bird's point of view.

## **Invaluable Freedom**

'Better die fighting for freedom than living as a prisoner being confined to the cage for the whole life.' That's exactly how I feel now...

In retrospect, I was actually born as a wild bird. Never could you imagine how footloose and fancy-free I was when soaring in the boundless sky. It seemed like I was the owner of the world, so I could fly high to supervise the entire place. However, accident always came unpredictably...

'Ah!!!' I was shot by a catapult! I fell down 300,00 feet from the high sky. That pain was definitely beyond words! But what was even worse was that somebody was bringing me away! Afterwards, I fell into a deep sleep with an unknown syringe injected into my body...

When I woke up, I found myself inside a prison-like cage. Soon after, I figured out what on earth was happening, I was kept as a pet by a wealthy man. Destiny had definitely played tricks on me! I was born to be the freest bird and now fate brought me to a cage. How absurd! For me, every minute staying in the cage was like being suffocated by shackles. I swore to myself that I must get out of this dump!

The day came when destiny finally discovered that it made a wrong click on me. In the early morning, my owner came to feed me as usual. Right after that, his business partner called him for an emergency issue. Therefore, he went away immediately, leaving the cage open.

At that very moment, the moment that I had been longing for, it was unbelievable that I felt ambivalent! Undoubtedly, I would like to go back to my home place to reunite with my beloved family, to be a bird enjoying freedom. But at the same time, I doubted if I should give up all the things I was enjoying. My owner treated me really well! Every day, he fed me with scrumptious cuisine. Back then, although I was free, I still needed to work laboriously to search for my prey. Living with my master, I didn't need to bother doing anything but I could enjoy the ideal material life that I had dreamt to have! Although I lost freedom, I still found this kind of life enjoyable, so was I really going to say goodbye to this dreamy life? I really hesitated.

All of a sudden, the maid of my owner rushed to me, I guessed that my owner asked her to close the cage door. Although I was caught in the dilemma between freedom and materialism, I clearly knew that if I did not escape, I might not even have the chance to try the taste of freedom again for the rest of my life. Therefore, I flapped my wings vigorously in order to fly away before the maid closed my cage. But once again, destiny played trick on me. I forgot how to fly as I hadn't flown for such a long time! I could just helplessly and powerlessly watch my cage being closed but doing nothing else.

Throughout the day, every single shard of the scenario kept lingering in my mind with the emotion of regret, repentant and powerless. I couldn't help bursting into tears whenever the cruel truth came to my mind, which I'd forgone the opportunity to return to the world of freedom, the opportunity that would not even come to me again! I totally lost the motivation to escape as I thought it was a mission impossible.

But then in that evening, I saw a group of birds migrating to the south. They recalled my memories of several migrations with my family and friends in winter. We flew over the hemisphere unimpededly. I could never forget how joyful it felt. So, I asked myself, why should I hesitate at that juncture when freedom was the thing that I really craved for?

These wild birds rekindle my passion to escape. A bird without freedom is a bird without soul. No matter how luxurious the material life is, it can't compensate the loss of freedom. Although I forgot how to fly on that day, the day I was just one step behind being free, I kept practicing in the small cage since then. I believe I can eventually fly up high again just like these birds. It seems like an unreachable dream but I believe that chance favours the prepared mind. Although hard work does not guarantee success, it is a corner stone to be successful and most importantly, it will never result in regret!

'Never give up on something that you can't go a day without thinking about.' We never miss the water till the well runs dry and one doesn't cherish freedom until they lose it but it's never too late to chase it back! The price of freedom is high but it is definitely worth it. Just always bear in mind 'Success is not the absence of failure; it's the persistence through failure.' We need to persist in adversities in order to bear fruit! It is hoped that through unremitting efforts, I can eventually harvest freedom and return to the sky of liberty!