**Sympathy**

I know what the trapped turtle dreams, alas!

When the sun filters through the crisp clear waves;

When fish swim freely among kelp and shells;

And a current wanders whilst the turtle yells;

When a shark dives into a nearby cave,

And the stingray hides, though not as it seems –

I know what the trapped turtle dreams!

I know why the trapped turtle cracks its shell!

So blood runs red and saliva runs dead;

For so he gasps his final breath of life;

And slowly fumbles in the fish’s strife;

As pain overcomes, he lays his deathbed,

Misery cuts him like a whetted knife-

I know why he cracks his shell!

I know why the trapped turtle hisses, ah me,

When a signal of hope is out of reach;

When his skin rips, yet the pain is dismissed;

A prayer of hope is all reminisce;

Battered and alone, he forces speech,

Then eyes close and he falls into the abyss –

I know why the trapped turtle hisses!

**Eva**

**Sympathy**

I know what the caged parrot feels, alas!

When the sun gleams on the exotic plain;

And when the wind plays its soft melodies,

Searching and scrabbling for remedies;

To escape the unknown terrain,

The harmony the forest reveals –

I know what the caged parrot feels!

I know why the caged parrot beats his wings!

‘Till his feathers transform from green to red;

His resilience fading like his life,

Each hit on the bar cuts deep like a knife;

Hope won’t stop running until he is dead,

Again the pain comes with a deeper sting –

I know why he beats his wings!

I know why the caged parrot sings, ah me,

When his wing is wounded and his beak is chipped;

Another strike on the bar for freedom,

Not entombed in a dark mausoleum;

A prayer to the gods, his heart feeling ripped,

A plea that up there, a new life begins –

I know why the caged parrot sings!

**Felix**

**Sympathy**

I know what the caged koala feels, alas!

When the sun is shining a warm bright light;

When the breeze stirs soft through the luscious grass,

And the beck flows like a stream of sheer glass;

When first dawn breaks, it’s a glorious sight,

And the faint scent from eucalyptus steals –

I know what the caged koala feels!

I know why the caged koala chews the pole;

‘Till the blood is red on the cruel bars;

He chews them through to save his weakened soul,

He’s gnawing at the bars out of control,

And a pain still throbs in the ancient scars;

The scars are still stinging, taking their toll –

I know why he chews the pole!

**Rory**

**Sympathy**

I know what the caged owl feels, alas!

When the sun goes down and it can’t fly free;

When midnight strikes and you can’t see the light,

And the beautiful stars are shining bright;

It’s trapped in a cage and can’t find its tea;

And the faint scent of prey is beyond its reach –

I know what the caged owl feels!

I know why the caged owl chips his beak

‘Till its blood is black on the cold stone floor;

For its blood pours out like a massive leak

When it opens its mouth, it tries to screech;

And a small sign of light comes through the door;

Its heart is slowing and can barely beat –

I know why he chips his beak!

I know why the caged owl cries, ah me!

When his wings are scarred and can’t flap wild;

When he sees others happy and jolly;

For he gets prickled by the holly;

And a painful prayer from his soul so mild,

A tender plea from his sorrowful self –

I know why the caged owl cries!

**Bethany**

**Sympathy**

I know what the caged zebra longs, alas!

When the sun touches the tips of the hill;

And the leaves fall onto the dried-up grass,

When the stream trickles down as calm as glass;

And the tepid wind is nothing but still,

And the fragrance in the air from lush ponds –

I know what the caged zebra longs!

I know why the caged zebra scrapes his claws

‘Till his blood is rotting on the cruel bars;

For he must reach his herd and must not pause

When he gasps for breath, he hits the hard floor;

And his eyes are forced shut due to old scars

And his heart slows down as though in the wars –

I know why he scrapes his claws!

I know why the caged zebra wails, ah me,

When he imagines running free he moans,
When he hits his head, it bangs on the floor;

He cannot bare the pain anymore,

His one last desire is to roam,

A sorrowful plea from his dismal self –

I know why the caged zebra wails!

**Emily**

**Sympathy**

I know what the caged whale dreams, alas!

When the bright sun sparkles on the still water;

When the seaweed sways in the gentle waves,

The waters tremors in the blackened caves;

The shark swims for its daily slaughter,

A cascade of glorious light now beams –

I know what the caged whale dreams!

I know why the caged whale clashes his tail

‘Till the blood is stained red on the cruel bars;

After all, he must migrate without fail,

His voice is hoarse and his bloodied fin frail;

His heart has been broken by those old scars,

The sharp bars shake as he is impaled;

I know why he clashes his tail.

I know why the caged whale moans, ah me,

When his back is scarred and his tail sore;

He wails mournfully in the darkness;

A last breath and plea, sent from his heart’s core;

His final dream; his final wish to roam -

I know why the caged whale moans!

**Elsa**

**Sympathy**

I know what the caged snake feels, alas!

When the sun beams gold on the glistening sands;

When the river’s a diamond in the light,

And reflects the sun on the coolest night;

When the wind blows through the trees on the lands,

And the aroma from the sea salt steals –

I know what the caged snake feels!

I know why the caged snake hisses and whines!

‘Till its red blood stains, as it squirms and writhes;

For she must protect her own, precious kind;

She fights hard and strong with her heart and mind;

The pain of insults still stabs like knives

Her precious freedom she must somehow find –

I know why she hisses and whines!

I know why the caged snake tastes the air, ah me,

Though she’s in a casket, ready to die -
She ignores the taunts, but does not agree;

She tries to get out, but monsters aren’t free,

No chance to be more, a tear stains her eye,

Up to heaven she goes, still with her plea –

I know why the caged snake tries.

**Rosie and Lexi**