

Where Freedom Lies
Perry M. Orlando of Jesup Georgia
\$100.00 2nd place Winner

**I saw a bird today,
as it landed on a tree.
White and blue and gray,
just in front of me.**

**I paused to watch it
Preen its dress, and said,
“oh lovely bird,
what brings you here,
behind this fence
with lonely men encaged?”**

**Why not dance upon the clouds,
with freedom on your wings?
Or float on breezes warm and soft,
and see what freedom brings?”**

**“I’m here for you my captive friend,
with a message and a song.
I’ve searched the skies for rainbow’s end.
I’ve traveled far and long.**

**I’ve seen the world an open stage,
and know what part I play.
I’ve spied my brothers in a cage,
through many night and day.**

**Feathers clipped, no skies to soar,
No pots of gold to hoard.
And my futile searching was no more.
For I found my life’s reward.**

**For though no clouds on which to dance,
no sun-warmed breeze to ride,
From watching them I learned by chance,
That freedom resides, inside.**