**Your lungs fill & spread themselves,  
wings of pink blood, and your bones  
empty themselves and become hollow.  
When you breathe in you’ll lift like a balloon  
and your heart is light too & huge,  
beating with pure joy, pure helium.  
The sun’s white winds blow through you,  
there’s nothing above you,  
you see the earth now as an oval jewel,  
radiant & seablue with love.  
It’s only in dreams you can do this.  
Waking, your heart is a shaken fist,  
a fine dust clogs the air you breathe in;  
the sun’s a hot copper weight pressing straight  
down on the think pink rind of your skull.  
It’s always the moment just before gunshot.  
You try & try to rise but you cannot.**

**Margaret is communicating the struggles you may have throughout your life through the concept of flying. When birds fly, it is a symbol of freedom. We all have the desire to “fly inside” our own bodies. The joy we experience when we dream is comparable to becoming a bird. This poem is about how our dreams liberate us, but reality can eliminate this freedom. She reminds us that flying is only possible in our dreams. So, when we are awake and experiencing things in our lives that may be difficult, our dreams are put on hold. It starts off by talking about being free and flying, but this can only happen in your dreams. In an instant, we are brought back to the reality of the world and how it may seem like we cannot do everything that we wish we could. When you wake up, your dreams are destroyed, and seem impossible. She presents the frustration of dealing with obstacles by talking about the obstacles that birds go through: dust clogging the air that you breathe, hot sun beating down on you, and the final gunshot that brings you down. When you are dreaming, you feel like the world is below you, and you can accomplish anything. It is beautiful to you, when things are going as planned, and when you free your mind. This poem shows how important it is to dream, and how we are much happier when we have an open mind. However, it is up to you how you want to deal with the obstacles that come along with it. Margaret offers both sides an equal part: reality vs. imagination.**

**Margaret uses literary devices such as imagery, symbolism, and analogies in her poem to induce emotion in her readers. The main image she creates in her poem is flying. She uses descriptive language to show what atmosphere she is imagining, such as when she says “The sun’s white winds blow through you,” and “the sun’s a hot copper weight”. This gives reader a feel of what the environment feels like. In the beginning of the poem, Margaret creates a picture in our mind about what it would be like for someone to become a bird. She covers aspects of hollowing bones to your heart beating with helium. Another example of imagery is when she creates the image of the earth. The white winds and the earth being an oval jewel, radiant with love shows that the environment is serene and tranquil. The symbolism in this poem is comparing birds to humans. When people dream, she believes it feels like you are flying. The concept of reality is disguised as dust clogging the bird’s airways and the sun beating down on their fragile skull. Margaret’s poem is an analogy. She wants to describe what it is like to dream, and deal with reality and she uses the analogy of flying. Being a bird, flying over the world is much like the sensation you get when you follow your dreams. However, there is another side to her poem. Reality can also be an obstacle. We can imagine what it is like for a bird to breathe in clogged air and having a heart like a shaken fist. Her analogy allows us to explore something unfamiliar through a simple process of how a bird flies. This poem is not directly stating her ideas. She leaves it up to the reader to interpret what her poem is about, and starts us off by describing the freeing experience of dreaming vs. the interruption of “waking up”.**

**The analogy of hollow bones could be seen as open paths for someone to travel, which also relates to the aspect of freedom, not just necessarily the structure for wings. The colour pink, used many times throughout the poem, was related to innocence, and childhood, the tender skin of a new-born child. The helium reference means that the person is literally buoyant, feeling completely happy. Also, when the heart is mentioned as a shaking fist, this shows that in reality we are less kind to our loved ones, and shorter tempered. Finally, some say that the ending concludes all the tough times we endure through life, and once the bullet enters the brain, death, we are ceased to be. We are left alone, and that is it. There are many things to think about when reading this poem. The beauty of poetry is that most of it is left up to the imagination of anyone who reads it. The authors plant ideas in our head, and provide a mysterious explanation to how they may feel sometimes. We can always relate to a poem because there are so many ways to interpret them.**