

**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF MAYA ANGELOU

AGES 9-12

BOTWC MINI POSING AS
MAYA ANGELOU



MAYA ANGELOU'S LIFE

MAYA ANGELOU WAS BORN MARGUERITE ANNIE JOHNSON; WAS AN AWARD-WINNING AMERICAN POET, SINGER, **MEMOIRIST**, AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST. SHE PUBLISHED SEVEN **AUTOBIOGRAPHIES**, THREE BOOKS OF **ESSAYS**, SEVERAL BOOKS OF POETRY, AND A LONG LIST OF PLAYS, MOVIES, AND TELEVISION SHOWS SPANNING OVER 50 YEARS. THERE ARE OVER FIFTY **HONORARY DEGREES** IN HER NAME!

MAYA ANGELOU IS BEST KNOWN FOR HER SERIES OF SEVEN AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, ABOUT HER CHILDHOOD AND EARLY ADULT EXPERIENCES. THE FIRST, *I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS* (1969), TELLS OF HER LIFE UP TO THE AGE OF 17 AND IS KNOWN ALL OVER THE WORLD. MAYA HAD MANY **TALENTS**, ALONG WITH BEING A WRITER, SHE HAS ALSO BEEN A FRY COOK, DANCER AND **PERFORMER**, AN **OPERA** SINGER, AND JOURNALIST. SHE WROTE ABOUT EGYPT AND GHANA!



MAYA WAS AN ACTIVIST IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND WORKED WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND MALCOLM X. IN THE 1990S, SHE MADE ALMOST 80 APPEARANCES A YEAR GIVING SPEECHES AROUND THE



WORLD INTO HER EIGHTIES. IN 1993, MAYA ANGELOU READ HER POEM "ON THE PULSE OF MORNING" AT THE FIRST INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON, MAKING HER THE FIRST POET TO SPEAK AT AN INAUGURATION SINCE ROBERT FROST AT THE **INAUGURATION** OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY IN 1961. SHE ALSO SPOKE ON PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S BEHALF, DURING HIS PRESIDENCY! WOW, WHAT A LIFE!

MAYA ANGELOU BECAME KNOWN FOR HER WORK ABOUT BLACK PEOPLE AND WOMEN. HER WORKS ARE TAUGHT AT SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE, EVEN IN THE BECAUSE OF THEM WE CAN BOX! MAYA ANGELOU WAS A BLACK WOMAN WHO STOOD AGAINST RACISM, WAS PROUD OF HER IDENTITY, AND BOASTED OF HER FAMILY AND TRAVELS.

THREE FACTS ABOUT MAYA ANGELOU

- SHE SPOKE 6 LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, FRENCH, SPANISH, HEBREW, ITALIAN, AND FANTE (A DIALECT OF AKAN NATIVE TO GHANA).
- SHE WAS A CHEF AND WROTE TWO COOKBOOKS!
- SHE WAS THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO CONDUCT A CABLE CAR IN SAN FRANCISCO.



1928

BORN ON APRIL 4,
IN ST. LOUIS, MO

1969

*I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD
SINGS* IS PUBLISHED

2008

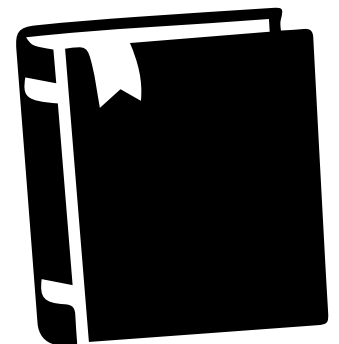
CAMPAIGN RALLY
FOR OBAMA

1960s

MAYA ANGELOU WORKS WITH
MLK AND MALCOLM X DURING
THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

1993

BILL CLINTON
INAUGURAL POEM



1. WHAT IS THE MAIN IDEA OF THE ENTIRE PASSAGE?
WHAT DETAILS TELL MORE ABOUT THAT IDEA?

2. SUMMARIZE MAYA ANGELOU'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE 1990s



POETRY ACTIVITY:

DIRECTIONS: IN THIS SECTION, YOU'LL FIND ONE OF MAYA ANGELOU'S FAMOUS POEMS "LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME." THIS POEM IS WRITTEN FROM A CHILD'S POINT OF VIEW. IN RHYME, IT TELLS US THAT NO MATTER WHAT WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE, WE DO NOT HAVE TO BE AFRAID. THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WILL MAKE US AFRAID AND THAT'S OKAY. BE SURE TO READ THE POEM WITH YOUR FAMILY AND TALK ABOUT IT.

AFTER YOU'RE FINISHED READING THE POEM, YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN POEM WITH THE REFRAIN "LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME" WITH ALL THE THINGS THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE (OR AREN'T) AFRAID OF ANYMORE.

LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME

BY MAYA ANGELOU

SHADOWS ON THE WALL
NOISES DOWN THE HALL
LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL

BAD DOGS BARKING LOUD
BIG GHOSTS IN A CLOUD
LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL

MEAN OLD MOTHER GOOSE
LIONS ON THE LOOSE
THEY DON'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL

DRAGONS BREATHING FLAME
ON MY COUNTERPANE
THAT DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL.

I GO BOO
MAKE THEM SHOO
I MAKE FUN
WAY THEY RUN

I WON'T CRY
SO THEY FLY
I JUST SMILE
THEY GO WILD
LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL.

TOUGH GUYS FIGHT
ALL ALONE AT NIGHT
LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL.

PANTHERS IN THE PARK
STRANGERS IN THE DARK
NO, THEY DON'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL.

THAT NEW CLASSROOM WHERE
BOYS ALL PULL MY HAIR
(KISSY LITTLE GIRLS
WITH THEIR HAIR IN CURLS)
THEY DON'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL.

DON'T SHOW ME FROGS AND SNAKES
AND LISTEN FOR MY SCREAM,
IF I'M AFRAID AT ALL
IT'S ONLY IN MY DREAMS.

I'VE GOT A MAGIC CHARM
THAT I KEEP UP MY SLEEVE
I CAN WALK THE OCEAN FLOOR
AND NEVER HAVE TO BREATHE.

LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL

NOT AT ALL
NOT AT ALL.

LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL.



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME

BY _____

LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL

LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL

LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL

NO, THEY DON'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL.

THEY DON'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL

THEY DON'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL.

THAT DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL.

IT'S ONLY IN MY DREAMS.

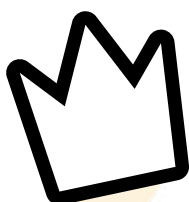
LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL

LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL
NOT AT ALL
NOT AT ALL.

LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL.

#BOTWCCHALLENGE

AFTER YOU'VE WRITTEN
YOUR POEM, RECITE IT,
CAPTURE IT ON VIDEO AND TAG
US ON SOCIAL!



GLOSSARY

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: A SERIES OF ACTIONS TAKEN TO MAKE SOCIETY MORE FAIR FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

REFRAIN: A REPEATED LINE IN A POEM

CONDUCT: MANAGING AN ACTIVITY

DIALECT: THE USAGE OR VOCABULARY CHARACTERISTIC OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE

AUTOBIOGRAPHY: A BOOK OR ACCOUNT OF YOUR OWN LIFE

CABLE CAR: A CONVEYANCE FOR PASSENGERS OR FREIGHT ON A CABLE RAILWAY

HONORARY DEGREE: AN ACADEMIC DEGREE THAT WAIVES THE REQUIREMENTS (RESIDENCE, ASSIGNMENTS, ETC.) NEEDED

ESSAY: A SHORT PIECE OF WRITING ON A PARTICULAR SUBJECT

PERFORMER: A PERSON WHO ENTERTAINS AN AUDIENCE

TALENTS: NATURAL ABILITIES OR QUALITIES

OPERA: A DRAMA SET TO MUSIC

INAUGURATION: THE CEREMONIAL INDUCTION INTO A POSITION



STORYTIME!

MAYA ANGELOU IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPACTFUL WRITERS, PERFORMERS, AND THOUGHT LEADERS OF OUR TIME. AFTER HER PARENTS' DIVORCE, SHE WAS SENT TO LIVE WITH HER GRANDMOTHER IN RACIALLY DIVIDED STAMPS, ARKANSAS, WHERE SHE EXPERIENCED THE BRUTALITY OF **RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**. SHE ALSO HAD FAITH AND TOOK ON THE VALUES OF HER AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND CULTURE. THESE VALUES PLAYED A ROLE IN HER BECOMING AN AUTHOR, ACTRESS, JOURNALIST, CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER, AND TEACHER AND USING HER VOICE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

AS WE RECEIVE OUR BECAUSE OF THEM WE CAN BOX, WE LEARN OF MANY PEOPLE WHO'VE USED THEIR VOICES. NOW, WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU! WHERE DOES YOUR VOICE COME FROM?



**YOU ARE YOUR
ANCESTORS
WILDEST DREAMS!**

WHO INFLUENCES IT? IS IT YOUR FAMILY, YOUR CULTURE, YOUR BELIEFS, YOUR PEERS, YOUR EXPERIENCES? HOW WILL YOU USE YOUR VOICE TO CHANGE THE WORLD? WE CHALLENGE YOU TO WRITE A JOURNAL ENTRY! **SEND IT TO US AT (HELLO@BOTWCBOX.COM)**! YOU MIGHT BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER AND YOUR VOICE WILL BE SENT TO HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN, JUST LIKE YOU!

TAKE THE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.