

Maya Angelou

voice and strength

Maya Angelou was an American writer, poet, and civil rights activist known for her powerful words and inspirational life story. She was born in 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri, and faced many challenges growing up, including racism, poverty, and personal hardships. Despite these difficulties, Maya found strength in reading, writing, and speaking up for what was right.

When Maya was eight years old, a traumatic event changed her life, and she stopped speaking for nearly five years. During this time, Maya found comfort in reading and writing. She loved stories and poetry, that helped her understand the world around her. Although she was silent, her mind was filled with ideas. She listened carefully to the people around her and took in the beauty of words.


Eventually, with the support of a caring teacher, Maya found her voice again and started to speak. Her teacher encouraged her to read aloud and express her thoughts, which slowly helped her regain confidence. As she grew older, she wrote her first book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, an autobiography that tells the story of her childhood and how she overcame her struggles. The book became famous for its honesty, showing the challenges of growing up as a Black girl in America, including facing racism and personal trauma, and the strength it takes to overcome adversity. Maya's story inspired many people to be brave and never give up, no matter how hard life gets.

Maya also became a well-known poet and speaker. One of her most famous poems, "Still I Rise," celebrates the power of resilience. In it, she speaks about rising above difficulties, no matter how many times life tries to hold you down. Maya's words were not just about her experiences; they were about everyone's ability to overcome obstacles and be proud of who they are.

Throughout her life, Maya Angelou worked alongside civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, using her voice to fight for equality and justice. She participated in marches, gave powerful speeches, and used her writing to speak out against injustice. She believed in the power of words to bring about change, uplift others, and challenge unfair treatment. Maya's powerful poems, books, and speeches continue to inspire people worldwide, reminding us to stand up for what is right and never lose hope.

Maya taught us that no matter our circumstances, we all have the power to rise, speak up, and make a difference. Her legacy reminds us that our voices matter and can change the world.

1. **Who was Maya Angelou, and what was she known for?**
2. **Why did Maya Angelou stop talking when she was eight years old?**
3. **What helped Maya Angelou find her voice again?**
4. **What is Maya's book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* about?**
5. **How did Maya Angelou use her words to help others?**


Use the dictionary  to find the meanings of these words and then use them in a sentence.

Word	Definition
Inspirational	
Hardship	
Traumatic	
Absorbed	
Adversity	
Resilience	

Word	Use it in a sentence
Inspirational	
Hardship	
Traumatic	
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Resilience	

If you would like different questions or words to define, then use these next two pages to create your own. Use Split and Merge to make your perfect resource.

Don't forget you could also ask Questions AI to write questions for you based on the reading comprehension.

Use the dictionary  to find the meanings of these words and then use them in a sentence.


Word	Definition


Word	Use it in a sentence


Name: _____


Date: _____

Maya Angelou

Use the Voice Comment Tool  to explain the following: **Name, Date of Birth and Date of Death.**

Use the Media Tool  to insert an image of Maya Angelou.

Use the Media Tool  to insert a YouTube video of her reading one of her poems.

Use the Text Tool  to provide four facts about her life and background.

Why do we celebrate her? Why is she influential?

Famous Quotes:

Why did you choose to research Maya Angelou?

Create a timeline of Maya Angelou's life.

Who or what influenced her in her life and work?

How is she remembered or thought of today?