

# MAYA ANGELOU

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Maya Angelou is part of the fabric of modern America. She has told her story of being a key part of the civil rights movement through poetry, novels and film. She is best known for her six autobiographies, most notably 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'. In 1993, President Bill Clinton asked her to recite one of her poems at his inauguration.

Angelou was born in Missouri in 1928 into a deeply segregated society. Her parent's divorce meant she was sent back and forth between her mother and grandmother. Her mother's boyfriend raped her when she was eight. His later murder left Angelou mute for five years. She studied drama and literature at school, and three weeks after graduating, gave birth to her son.

Angelou struggled to survive for many years. She experienced poverty, crime, prostitution and her son being kidnapped. She won a scholarship to study dance. Her career as a singer and dancer took off. She moved to New York and acted in Broadway plays. She also met Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X and became active in the civil rights movement.

Angelou became, and is to this day, a prolific writer. She also toured the USA giving lectures, appeared in TV series and wrote songs. Her screenplay, 'Georgia, Georgia' was the first written by a black woman to be made into a movie. Angelou has been highly honored for her significant cultural contributions and has over 30 honorary degrees. She is an American legend.

249 words  
Flesch Kinkaid 7.6

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. key            | a. say aloud       |
| 2. movement       | b. divided         |
| 3. recite         | c. political group |
| 4. segregated     | d. killing         |
| 5. back and forth | e. important       |
| 6. murder         | f. to and fro      |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 7. survive      | g. icon              |
| 8. acted        | h. productive        |
| 9. took off     | i. get by            |
| 10. prolific    | j. extraordinary     |
| 11. significant | k. became successful |
| 12. legend      | l. performed         |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article.

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Maya Angelou is part of the fabric  | a. one of her poems          |
| 2. her story of being a key part of    | b. cultural contributions    |
| 3. Bill Clinton asked her to recite    | c. survive for many years    |
| 4. a deeply segregated                 | d. day, a prolific writer    |
| 5. she was sent back                   | e. took off                  |
| 6. Angelou struggled to                | f. of modern America         |
| 7. Her career as a singer and dancer   | g. society                   |
| 8. Angelou became, and is to this      | h. and forth                 |
| 9. the first written by a black woman  | i. the civil rights movement |
| 10. highly honored for her significant | j. to be made into a movie   |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Maya Angelou is part of the \_\_\_\_\_ America. She has told her story of being a \_\_\_\_\_ civil rights movement through poetry, novels and film. She is best known for her six autobiographies, \_\_\_\_\_ 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'. In 1993, President Bill Clinton asked her \_\_\_\_\_ her poems at his inauguration.

Angelou was born in Missouri in 1928 into a \_\_\_\_\_ society. Her parent's divorce meant she was \_\_\_\_\_ between her mother and grandmother. Her mother's boyfriend raped her when she was eight. His \_\_\_\_\_ Angelou mute for five years. She studied drama and literature at school, and three weeks after graduating, \_\_\_\_\_ son.

Angelou struggled \_\_\_\_\_ many years. She experienced poverty, crime, prostitution \_\_\_\_\_ kidnapped. She won a scholarship to study dance. Her career as a singer and \_\_\_\_\_. She moved to New York and acted in Broadway plays. She also met Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X and \_\_\_\_\_ the civil rights movement.

Angelou became, \_\_\_\_\_, a prolific writer. She also toured the USA \_\_\_\_\_, appeared in TV series and wrote songs. Her screenplay, 'Georgia, Georgia' was \_\_\_\_\_ a black woman to be made into a movie. Angelou has \_\_\_\_\_ for her significant cultural contributions and has over 30 honorary degrees. She is an American legend.

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Maya Angelou is part of the *cloth / fabric* of modern America. She has told her story of being a *key / lock* part of the civil rights movement through poetry, novels and film. She is best known for her six autobiographies, most *notes / notably* 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'. In 1993, President Bill Clinton asked her to recite one of her *poetry / poems* at his inauguration.

Angelou was born in Missouri in 1928 into a *deeply / deepness* segregated society. Her parent's divorce *meant / mean* she was sent back and *for / forth* between her mother and grandmother. Her mother's boyfriend raped her when she was eight. His later murder *right / left* Angelou mute for five years. She studied drama and literature at school, and three weeks after graduating, gave birth to her son.

Angelou struggled *for / to* survive for many years. She experienced poverty, *criminal / crime*, prostitution and her son being kidnapped. She won a scholarship to study dance. Her career *as / was* a singer and dancer took off. She moved to New York and acted in Broadway plays. She also met Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X and became *active / actively* in the civil rights movement.

Angelou became, and is to *then / this* day, a prolific writer. She also *toured / touring* the USA giving lectures, appeared in TV series and wrote songs. Her screenplay, 'Georgia, Georgia' was the first *written / wrote* by a black woman to be made into a movie. Angelou has been highly honored *for / to* her significant cultural contributions and has over 30 honorary degrees. She is an American legend.

## SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

### *Paragraph 1*

1. part of the rbcifa of modern America
2. civil rthisg movement
3. through torpye, novels and film
4. President Bill Clinton asked her to ieertc one of her poems

### *Paragraph 2*

5. a ypedle segregated society
6. Her parent's idoverc
7. She studied drama and ratiturele
8. gave rtbih to her son

### *Paragraph 3*

9. Angelou struggled to rvseiuu
10. She experienced teyovrp, crime, prostitution...
11. Her ecerra as a singer and dancer took off
12. acted in Broadway aylps

### *Paragraph 4*

13. a prolific rterwi
14. the first tnrtiwe by a black woman
15. Angelou has been hghily honored
16. She is an American dengle

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) contributions and has over 30 honorary degrees. She is an American legend.
- ( ) a movie. Angelou has been highly honored for her significant cultural
- ( ) eight. His later murder left Angelou mute for five years. She studied drama and literature at
- ( ) became active in the civil rights movement.
- ( ) movement through poetry, novels and film. She is best known for her six autobiographies, most notably 'I Know Why
- ( **1** ) Maya Angelou is part of the fabric of modern America. She has told her story of being a key part of the civil rights
- ( ) the Caged Bird Sings'. In 1993, President Bill Clinton asked her to recite one of her poems at his inauguration.
- ( ) Angelou struggled to survive for many years. She experienced poverty, crime, prostitution and her son being
- ( ) series and wrote songs. Her screenplay, 'Georgia, Georgia' was the first written by a black woman to be made into
- ( ) forth between her mother and grandmother. Her mother's boyfriend raped her when she was
- ( ) school, and three weeks after graduating, gave birth to her son.
- ( ) kidnapped. She won a scholarship to study dance. Her career as a singer and dancer took off. She moved to New York
- ( ) Angelou was born in Missouri in 1928 into a deeply segregated society. Her parent's divorce meant she was sent back and
- ( ) and acted in Broadway plays. She also met Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X and
- ( ) Angelou became, and is to this day, a prolific writer. She also toured the USA giving lectures, appeared in TV

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. part of the fabric of modern America

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2. a key part of the civil rights movement

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3. Bill Clinton asked her to recite one of her poems

---

4. she was sent back and forth

---

5. three weeks after graduating gave birth to her son

---

6. Angelou struggled to survive for many years

---

7. Her career as a singer and dancer took off

---

8. She moved to New York and acted in Broadway plays

---

9. highly honored for her significant cultural contributions

---

10. She is an American legend

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## MAYA ANGELOU DISCUSSION:

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Maya Angelou?
2. Would you like to have met Maya Angelou?
3. What would you like to know about Maya Angelou and why?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

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## MAYA ANGELOU DISCUSSION:

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Maya Angelou?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Maya Angelou?
3. What would her answers have been to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

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## MAYA ANGELOU SURVEY:

Write five questions about Maya Angelou in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**

**WRITING:**

**Write about Maya Angelou for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.**

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## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Maya Angelou. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAYA ANGELOU POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Maya Angelou. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Maya Angelou. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she did every day and what she thought about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Maya Angelou. Ask her three questions about her life. Tell her how important she is in today's world and how she is missed. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Maya Angelou expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. key            | a. important       |
| 2. movement       | b. political group |
| 3. recite         | c. say aloud       |
| 4. segregated     | d. divided         |
| 5. back and forth | e. to and fro      |
| 6. murder         | f. killing         |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 7. survive      | g. get by            |
| 8. acted        | h. performed         |
| 9. took off     | i. became successful |
| 10. prolific    | j. productive        |
| 11. significant | k. extraordinary     |
| 12. legend      | l. icon              |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Maya Angelou is part of the fabric  | a. of modern America         |
| 2. her story of being a key part of    | b. the civil rights movement |
| 3. Bill Clinton asked her to recite    | c. one of her poems          |
| 4. a deeply segregated                 | d. society                   |
| 5. she was sent back                   | e. and forth                 |
| 6. Angelou struggled to                | f. survive for many years    |
| 7. Her career as a singer and dancer   | g. took off                  |
| 8. Angelou became, and is to this      | h. day, a prolific writer    |
| 9. the first written by a black woman  | i. to be made into a movie   |
| 10. highly honored for her significant | j. cultural contributions    |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.