

Name _____

Date _____

Maya Angelou & Resilience

Read each question and circle the correct answer.

1. As a child, Maya Angelou

- A. faced racism and prejudice.
- B. stopped speaking for many years.
- C. went back and forth between homes.
- D. all of the above

2. The name "Maya" came from

- A. a childhood nickname.
- B. her favorite children's book.
- C. her mother's side of the family.
- D. a popular song from the 1940s.

3. Why did Angelou stop speaking for five years?

- A. She didn't like the sound of her voice.
- B. She was afraid of the power of her words.
- C. She wanted to become a professional singer.
- D. She was ashamed that she had no formal education.

4. How did Mrs. Flowers influence Angelou's life?

- A. by bringing her books
- B. by taking her to the doctor
- C. by giving her a job as a dancer
- D. by getting her interested in science

5. What gave Angelou the courage to speak again?

- A. her sister's support
- B. writing her first book
- C. reading books and poems
- D. meeting her future husband

6. Which of the following is an example of figurative language?

- A. Her smile was as bright as the sun.
- B. George cooked an extremely spicy chili.
- C. The bus ride took twice as long as usual!
- D. Toni Morrison is my favorite author of all time.

7. True or False: Angelou's only skill was writing.

- A. True
- B. False

8. How did Angelou turn a loss into a gain?

- A. She lost the first draft of her memoir but was able to rewrite it from memory.
- B. She was in a terrible accident as a child and learned to live with gratitude.
- C. She turned her painful memories into beloved books.
- D. She adopted a daughter after her mother died.

9. Angelou became a mother at the age of

- A. 17.
- B. 19.
- C. 22.
- D. 30.

10. Angelou is best known for *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, a

- A. spoken-word album.
- B. book of poems.
- C. screenplay.
- D. memoir.