

Name _____

Date _____



Maya Angelou & Resilience

Marguerite Annie Johnson is her name,
Born in St. Louis, 1928.
Recognized by her nickname
And the critically acclaimed I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.
It's Maya Angelou's autobiography,
A history of a person's life written in all honesty.
And honestly, life was rough for her and Bailey,
That was brother, both sent to live with their grandmother.
After their parents split up, Grandma held them down
Through the mix up, while they drown in a sea of grief.
That's a metaphor, using words figuratively,
But when they moved back, it got worse, seriously.
Maya was abused by her mother's boyfriend,
She told her brother who told the family about the torment.
He was later found dead, Maya filled with fear,
She blamed herself and didn't speak again for five years.

Suffered as a child and dealt with abuse,
That did not determine who she was, that's just the ugly truth.
Took the story of her life and put it to good use,
'Cause still I rise.
Yup, when you believe in the power of words,
You can overcome the pain by reversing the hurt.
Turn a loss to a gain, if you stick to the plan,
'Cause still I rise.

Maya had a teacher named Mrs. Flowers,

Who brought her books to read, and the knowledge she devoured.

Reading gave her courage to find her voice again

But obstacles remained time and time again.

On top of being poor, she dealt with racism,

Segregated schools caused frustration.

Raids by the KKK, with her back against the wall,

Maya had to take it day by day.

She became a single mom at 17,

And so that she could support her son, became a working machine

A waitress, a singer, a dancer, an actress,

A cook, a civil rights activist.

But most recognized for her memoir, she was brilliant,

Creating powerful stories of resilience.

Her books and poems filled with figurative language,

Like similes, metaphors, and imagery.

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Maya died in 2014,

But her words live on through her legacy...

"You may shoot me with your words,

You may cut me with your eyes,

You may kill me with your hatefulness,

But still, like air, I'll rise."