

Black History

MAYA ANGELOU



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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DATE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

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MAYA ANGELOU



Maya Angelou (20th-21st) was an American author, poet, and civil rights activist. She is best known for her series of seven autobiographies, starting with "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" (1969), which was nominated for a National Book Award and made her the first nonfiction bestseller by an African American woman.

Angelou was also a poet, and her volume of poetry "Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water—Fore I Die" (1971) was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. She also wrote plays, essays, and a cookbook, and she was a frequent speaker and commentator on public issues.

Angelou had a long career as a performer, including as a singer, dancer, and actor, and she was also a professor of American studies at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. She was awarded numerous honors throughout her career, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Lincoln Medal.

5. Apart from her achievements that included roles as a professorship during her
- A) Harvard University
 - B) Stanford University
 - C) Wake Forest University
 - D) University of California

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Maya Angelou's poetry collections were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

Why the Caged Bird Sings is an autobiography.
The author of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" is an African American woman with a Ph.D. in literature.
Maya Angelou held a Ph.D. in literature from Wake Forest University.
She was also a professor of American studies at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.
She was awarded numerous honors throughout her career, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Lincoln Medal.

NO-PREP

READING COMPREHENSION

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

Ready to Print

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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

6. Which of Maya Angelou's poetry collections was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize?

- A) I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
- B) Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Die
- C) And Still I Rise
- D) The Heart of a Woman

7. What significant impact did "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" have on Maya Angelou's career?

ANSWERS

DATE: _____

THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. She is best known for?

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4. Which prestigious award did Maya Angelou receive for her contributions, including being a civil rights activist and author?

- A) Pulitzer Prize
- B) National Book Award
- C) Presidential Medal of Freedom
- D) Lincoln Medal

5. Apart from her achievements in literature, Maya Angelou had a versatile career that included roles as a singer, dancer, and actor. Where did she hold a professorship during her career?

- A) Harvard University
- B) Stanford University
- C) Wake Forest University
- D) University of California, Berkeley

READING COMPREHENSION

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ANSWERS

1. What is Maya Angelou best known for?
- Answer: C) Series of Autobiographies

2. Which of Maya Angelou's works marked her as a nonfiction bestseller?
- Answer: B) I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

3. In addition to her career as an author, Maya Angelou held a professorship in which field?
- Answer: C) American Studies

4. Which prestigious award did Maya Angelou receive for being a civil rights activist and author?
- Answer: C) Presidential Medal of Freedom

5. Apart from her achievements in literature, Maya Angelou included roles as a singer, dancer, and actor. Where did she hold a professorship during her career?
- Answer: C) Wake Forest University

6. Which of Maya Angelou's poetry collections was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize?
- Answer: B) Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Die

7. What significant impact did "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" have on Maya Angelou's career?
- Answer: C) It made her the first African American woman to hold a nonfiction bestseller.

8. In addition to her roles as a singer, dancer, and actor, Maya Angelou also held a professorship in the arts and civil rights.
- Answer: C) Presidential Medal of Freedom

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. What is Maya Angelou best known for?

- A) Playwright
- B) Civil Rights Activist
- C) Series of Autobiographies
- D) Cookbook Author

2. Which of Maya Angelou's works marked her as the first African American woman to have a nonfiction bestseller?

- A) Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Die
- B) I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
- C) Pulitzer Prize-winning Poetry
- D) Lincoln Medal-winning Essay

3. In addition to her career as an author, Maya Angelou had a notable role as a professor. In which field did she teach?

- A) Mathematics
- B) Physics
- C) American Studies
- D) History

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

6. Which of Maya Angelou's poetry collections was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize?

- A) The Caged Bird Sings
- B) Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Die
- C) I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
- D) A Woman

7. What significant impact did "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" have on Maya Angelou's career?

- A) It earned her the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- B) It marked her debut as a playwright.
- C) It made her the first African American woman with a nonfiction bestseller.
- D) It led to her appointment as a university president.

8. In addition to her roles as a singer, dancer, and actor, Maya Angelou was also a professor. What were her contributions to what field of study?

- A) American Studies
- B) Mathematics
- C) Physics
- D) History

9. In which university in North Carolina did Maya Angelou hold a professorship in American Studies?

- A) Wake Forest University
- B) North Carolina State University
- C) University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- D) North Carolina State University

10. For which of the following fields was she awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom?

- A) Literature
- B) Civil Rights
- C) Music
- D) Various fields

ANSWERS

1. What is Maya Angelou best known for?
- Answer: C) Series of Autobiographies

2. Which of Maya Angelou's works marked her as the first African American woman to have a nonfiction bestseller?
- Answer: B) I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

3. In addition to her career as an author, Maya Angelou had a notable role as a professor. In which field did she teach?
- Answer: C) American Studies

4. Which prestigious award did Maya Angelou receive for her contributions, including being a civil rights activist and author?
- Answer: C) Presidential Medal of Freedom

5. Apart from her achievements in literature, Maya Angelou had a versatile career that included roles as a singer, dancer, and actor. Where did she hold a professorship in American Studies?
- Answer: D) Wake Forest University

6. Which of Maya Angelou's poetry collections was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize?
- Answer: B) Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Die

7. What significant impact did "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" have on Maya Angelou's career?
- Answer: C) It made her the first African American woman with a nonfiction bestseller.

8. In addition to her roles as a singer, dancer, and actor, Maya Angelou was also a professor. What were her contributions to what field of study?
- Answer: B) African American Studies

9. In which university in North Carolina did Maya Angelou hold a professorship in American Studies?
- Answer: D) Wake Forest University

10. For which of the following fields was she awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom?
- Answer: C) Presidential Medal of Freedom

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MCQ'S &
QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY
INCLUDED

CLOSE READING GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS INCLUDED

GROUP ACTIVITY

TITLE OF TEXT _____

WHAT I THINK _____

ANNOTATING MARKS

- ✓ Circle powerful words or phrases.
- ✓ Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- ✓ Place a question mark next to words or phrases that make you think.
- ✓ Write an exclamation point next to something interesting.

SUMMARIZE

Write a summary of the passage. The main idea should be stated in your first sentence. Then use the four details to write four supporting sentences. Close your summary by restating the main idea.

NAME: _____

MAIN IDEA

NAME: _____

TITLE OF TEXT _____

MAIN IDEA _____

SUPPORTING DETAILS #1 _____

SUPPORTING DETAILS #2 _____

SUPPORTING DETAILS #3 _____

VOCABULARY GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

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