

Maya Angelou S I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings

A Study Guide for Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

Activities to be used in the classroom to accompany the reading of I know why the caged bird sings by Maya Angelou.

Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide. Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned. Poetic and powerful, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings liberates the reader into life simply because Maya Angelou confronts her own life with such a moving wonder, such a luminous dignity."—James Baldwin

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou (Book Analysis)

Gather Together In My Name

A Casebook

Quicklet on Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (CliffNotes-like Book Summary and Analysis)

Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?

In this third self-contained volume of her autobiography, which began with I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou moves into the adult world, and the white world as well, as she marries, enters show business, and tours Europe and Africa in Porgy and Bess. As the book opens, Maya, in order to support herself and her young son, gets a job in a record shop run by a white woman. Suspicious of almost any kindness shown her, she is particularly confused by the special attentions of a young white customer. Soon the relationship grows into love and then marriage, and Maya believes a permanent relationship is finally possible. But it is not to be, and she is again forced to look for work. This time she finds a job as a dancer in a sleazy San Francisco bar. Her remarkable talent, however, soon brings her attention of a different kind, and before long she is singing in one of the most popular nightclubs on the coast. From there, she is called to New York to join the cast of Porgy and Bess, which is just about to begin another tour abroad. The troupe's joyous and dramatic adventure through Italy, France, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Egypt becomes the centerpiece of Singin' and Swingin'. This remarkable portrayal of one of the most exciting and talented casts ever put together, and of the encounters between these larger-than-life personalities and audiences who had rarely seen black people before, makes a hilarious and poignant story. The excitement of the journey—full of camaraderie, love affairs, and memorable personalities—is dampened only by Maya's nagging guilt that she has once again abandoned the person she loves most in life, her son. Back home, and driven close to suicide by her guilt and concern, she takes her son with her to Hawaii, where she discovers that devotion and love, in spite of forced absence, have the power to heal and sustain. As always, Maya Angelou's writing is charged with that remarkable sense of life and love and unique celebration of the human condition that have won her such a loyal following. With the publication of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" in 1969, Maya Angelou revolutionized poetry through her depiction of the personal lives of African American women. According to Hilton Als, up to that time, black female writers were unable to represent themselves as the central figures in the literature they wrote. This compelling volume provides a critical biography of Maya Angelou. Supporting social studies and biography assignments, this book will introduce readers to Angelou's childhood, her various literary successes, and her immense impact on the world of poetry and culture. Unlock the more straightforward side of I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, the first part of the author's seven-volume autobiography, which recounts her life up to the age of 17, shortly after the birth of her son. Her early life was marked by adversity: her parents were largely absent, racism and discrimination were rife across America, and she endured a traumatic sexual assault at the hands of her mother's boyfriend. However, in spite of these hardships, Angelou found joy in literature and in her relationship with her beloved brother Bailey, resulting in an undercurrent of optimism throughout her memoir. Maya Angelou was an American poet, memoirist, actress, singer and activist. She is remembered in particular for her autobiographical writings and her poems, including "Still I Rise" and "On the Pulse of Morning", which she recited at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. Find out everything you need to know about I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: • A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and

concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

Detailed Summary, Analysis and Reading Guide

Gather Together in My Name

Classifying Maya Angelou's I Know why the Caged Bird Sings as an African-American Female Bildungsroman

A Song Flung Up to Heaven

On the Pulse of Morning

Titles include Singing And Swinging And Getting Merry, I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou: Poems and Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now.

The sequel to I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS 'A brilliant writer, a fierce friend and a truly phenomenal woman'

Barack Obama Maya Angelou's volumes of autobiography are a testament to the talents and resilience of this

extraordinary writer. Loving the world, she also knows its cruelty. As a black woman she has known discrimination and extreme poverty, but also hope, joy, achievement and celebration. In the sequel to her bestselling I Know Why The Caged

Bird Sings, Maya Angelou is a young mother in California, unemployed, embarking on brief affairs and transient jobs in shops and night-clubs, turning to prostitution and the world of narcotics. Maya Angelou powerfully captures the

struggles and triumphs of her passionate life with dignity, wisdom, humour and humanity. 'She moved through the world with unshakeable calm, confidence and a fierce grace . . . She will always be the rainbow in my clouds' OPRAH WINFREY

'She was important in so many ways. She launched African American women writing in the United States. She was

generous to a fault. She had nineteen talents - used ten. And was a real original. There is no duplicate' TONI MORRISON

Presents essays that examine racism and other related issues in "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," discussing such topics as race and gender, humor and folklore, and death and rebirth.

A Moment of Friendship

Pog

Maya Angelou's I Know why the Caged Bird Sings

The Collected Autobiographies of Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Key features of this text: How to study the text Author and historical background General and detailed summaries Commentary on themes, structure, characters, language and style Glossaries Test questions and issues to consider Essay writing advice Cultural connections Literary terms Illustrations Colour design

Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide. Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned. Poetic and powerful, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings liberates the reader into life simply because Maya Angelou confronts her own life with such a moving wonder, such a luminous dignity."—James Baldwin From the Paperback edition.

REA's MAXnotes for William Shakespeare's Othello The MAXnotes offers a comprehensive summary and analysis of Othello and a biography of William Shakespeare. Places the events of the play in historical context and discusses each act in detail. Includes study questions and answers along with topics for papers and sample outlines.

BookTalk Notes for Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

I Know why the Caged Bird Sings

Letter to My Daughter

Teacher Guide

I Know why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou's unforgettable collection of poetry lends its name to the documentary film about her life, And Still I Rise, as seen on PBS's American Masters. Pretty women wonder where my secret lies. I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size But when I start to tell them, They think I'm telling lies. I say, It's in the reach of my arms, The span of my hips, The stride of my step, The curl of my lips. I'm a woman Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, That's me. Thus begins "Phenomenal Woman," just one of the beloved poems collected here in Maya Angelou's third book of verse. These poems are powerful, distinctive, and fresh—and, as always, full of the lifting rhythms of love and remembering. And Still I Rise is written from the heart, a celebration of life as only Maya Angelou has discovered it. "It is true poetry she is writing," M.F.K. Fisher has observed, "not just rhythm, the beat, rhymes. I find it very moving and at times beautiful. It has an innate purity about it, unquenchable dignity. . . . It is astounding, flabbergasting, to recognize it, in all the words I read every day and night . . . it gives me heart, to hear so clearly the caged bird singing and to understand her notes."

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Maya Angelou shares her path to living well and with meaning in this absorbing book of personal essays. Dedicated to the daughter she never had but sees all around her, Letter to My Daughter transcends genres and categories: guidebook, memoir, poetry, and pure delight. Here in short spellbinding essays are glimpses of the tumultuous life that led

Angelou to an exalted place in American letters and taught her lessons in compassion and fortitude: how she was brought up by her indomitable grandmother in segregated Arkansas, taken in at thirteen by her more worldly and less religious mother, and grew to be an awkward, six-foot-tall teenager whose first experience of loveless sex paradoxically left her with her greatest gift, a son. Whether she is recalling such lost friends as Coretta Scott King and Ossie Davis, extolling honesty, decrying vulgarity, explaining why becoming a Christian is a “lifelong endeavor,” or simply singing the praises of a meal of red rice—Maya Angelou writes from the heart to millions of women she considers her extended family. Like the rest of her remarkable work, *Letter to My Daughter* entertains and teaches; it is a book to cherish, savor, re-read, and share. “I gave birth to one child, a son, but I have thousands of daughters. You are Black and White, Jewish and Muslim, Asian, Spanish speaking, Native Americans and Aleut. You are fat and thin and pretty and plain, gay and straight, educated and unlettered, and I am speaking to you all. Here is my offering to you.”—from *Letter to My Daughter*

Presents critical analyses of the acclaimed work, overviewing its context in relation to historical, sociopolitical, and cultural perspectives.

Sing Your Song

A Study Guide for Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, *Singin' and Swingin'* and *Gettin' Merry Like Christmas*, *Poems*, *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*

Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diiie

Growing up Black and female in Maya Angelou's *I know why the caged bird sings* and Toni Morrison's *The bluest eye*

Lyrical and cadent, dramatic and sometimes playful, these poems speak of love, longing, parting; of freedom and shattered dreams; of Saturday-night partying and the smells and sounds of Southern cities.

Includes a brief biography of Maya Angelou, thematic and structural analysis of the work, critical views, and an index of themes and ideas.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Maya Angelou's classic memoirs have had an enduring impact on American literature and culture. Her life story is told in the documentary film *And Still I Rise*, as seen on PBS's *American Masters*. This Modern Library edition contains *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *Gather Together in My Name*, *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas*, *The Heart of a Woman*, *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes*, and *A Song Flung Up to Heaven*. When *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* was published to widespread acclaim in 1969, Maya Angelou garnered the attention of an international audience with the triumphs and tragedies of her childhood in the American South. This soul-baring memoir launched a six-book epic spanning the sweep of the author's incredible life. Now, for the first time, all six celebrated and bestselling autobiographies are available in this handsome one-volume edition. Dedicated fans and newcomers alike can follow the continually absorbing chronicle of Angelou's life: her formative childhood in Stamps, Arkansas; the birth of her son, Guy, at the end of World War II; her adventures travel abroad with the famed cast of *Porgy and Bess*; her experience living in a black expatriate “colony” in Ghana; her intense involvement with the civil rights movement, including her association with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X; and finally, the beginning of her writing career. The *Collected Autobiographies of Maya Angelou* traces the best and worst of the American experience in an achingly personal way. Angelou has chronicled her remarkable journey and inspired people of every generation and nationality to embrace life with commitment and passion.

The Heart of a Woman

autobiography vs. fiction

And Still I Rise

A Resource Guide to Dr. Maya Angelou's *I Know why the Caged Bird Sings*

Bloom's Guides -- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Maya Angelou, one of the best-loved authors of our time shares the wisdom of a remarkable life in this bestselling spiritual classic. This is Maya Angelou talking from the heart, down to earth and real, but also inspiring. This is a book to be treasured, a book about being in all ways a woman, about living well, about the power of the word, and about the power of spirituality to move and shape your life. Passionate, lively, and lyrical, Maya Angelou's latest unforgettable work offers a gem of truth on every page. Maya Angelou speaks out . . . On Faith:

“ I'm taken aback when people walk up to me and tell me they are Christians. My first response is the question 'Already?' It seems to me a lifelong endeavor to try to live the life of a Christian. It is in the search itself that one finds ecstasy. ” On Racism: “ It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength. We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter their color. ” On Taking Time for Ourselves: “ Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us. A day away acts as a spring tonic. It can dispel rancor, transform indecision, and renew the spirit. ” On Death and Grieving: “ When I sense myself filling with rage at the absence of a beloved, I try as soon as possible to remember that my concerns should be focused on what I can learn from my departed love. What legacy was left which can help me in the art of living a good life? ” On Style: “ Style is as unique and nontransferable and perfectly personal as a fingerprint. It is wise to take the time to develop one's own way of being, increasing those things one does well and eliminating the elements in one's character which can hinder and diminish the good personality. ”

Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide. Her life story is told in the documentary film *And Still I Rise*, as seen on PBS's *American Masters*. Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide. Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local “powhitetrash.” At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors (“ I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare ”) will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned. Poetic and powerful, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* will touch hearts and change minds for as long as

people read. " I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings liberates the reader into life simply because Maya Angelou confronts her own life with such a moving wonder, such a luminous dignity. " —James Baldwin

The culmination of a unique achievement in modern American literature: the six volumes of autobiography that began more than thirty years ago with the appearance of I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. A Song Flung Up to Heaven opens as Maya Angelou returns from Africa to the United States to work with Malcolm X. But first she has to journey to California to be reunited with her mother and brother. No sooner does she arrive there than she learns that Malcolm X has been assassinated. Devastated, she tries to put her life back together, working on the stage in local theaters and even conducting a door-to-door survey in Watts. Then Watts explodes in violence, a riot she describes firsthand. Subsequently, on a trip to New York, she meets Martin Luther King, Jr., who asks her to become his coordinator in the North, and she visits black churches all over America to help support King ' s Poor People ' s March. But once again tragedy strikes. King is assassinated, and this time Angelou completely withdraws from the world, unable to deal with this horrible event. Finally, James Baldwin forces her out of isolation and insists that she accompany him to a dinner party—where the idea for writing I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings is born. In fact, A Song Flung Up to Heaven ends as Maya Angelou begins to write the first sentences of Caged Bird.

I Know why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou

Mrs. Flowers

Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Racism in Maya Angelou's I Know why the Caged Bird Sings

'One of a kind. Utterly fantastic.' Eoin Colfer on Tin David and Penny's strange new home is surrounded by forest. It's the childhood home of their mother, who's recently died. But other creatures live here ... magical creatures, like tiny, hairy Pog. He's one of the First Folk, protecting the boundary between the worlds. As the children explore, they discover monsters slipping through from the place on the other side of the cellar door. Meanwhile, David is drawn into the woods by something darker, which insists there's a way he can bring his mother back ...

Another remarkable collection of poetry from one of America's masters of the medium. The first part gathers together poems of love and nostalgic memory, while Part II portrays confrontations inherent in a racist society.

ABOUT THE BOOK The caged bird sings with a fearful trill of things unknown but longed for still and his tune is heard on the distant hill for the caged bird sings of freedom One of the best and most influential books written in English since 1923. A biblical study of life in the midst of death. A New York Times bestseller. A National Book Awards nominee. One of the essential books produced by our culture. One of the most banned books in America. All of these phrases have been used to describe I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. The much-loved and oft-feared book is Maya Angelou's autobiography. Within the context of her life story, Angelou dares to examine racism, sexism, familial bonds, feminine strength, religion, sexual violence, and the things we do survive. The story begins when she is three years old and sent with her brother to live with their grandmother in rural Arkansas. It ends with the sense of empowerment Angelou felt upon giving birth to her son Guy when she was only 17 years old. Maya Angelou is now in her 80s and still revered for her wisdom, independence, and grace. She has managed to achieve great success as a writer, actress, dancer, director, musician, editor, activist, philanthropist, teacher, and mother. She is called doctor and has received countless honors. And yet Angelou never went to college. She was a single teenage mother. She grew up in rural, segregated Arkansas. She was mute for many years. She once lived in a junkyard for a month. When she was just eight years old, she was raped.

EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK She didn't want her family to think she was a bad person, but she felt awful about lying. Mr. Freeman received a light sentence and was released that day. His body was found that evening. Maya blamed herself for Mr. Freeman's death and decided not to talk anymore for fear of hurting others. Not knowing what to do with Maya, the Baxter family sent her and Bailey back to Stamps. Bailey dealt with his devastation by making outlandish stories about St Louis, while Maya continued in her silence. Many of the townsfolk didn't understand and thought she was uppity or simple. Momma and Uncle Willy simply accepted it with understanding. Commentary From today's perspective, it seems almost criminal that the family never took Maya to a therapist. How could they ever expect a little girl to understand that what had happened to her and subsequently to Mr. Freeman was not her fault? How could they simply send her away when she stopped talking? And yet, in those days people didn't talk about such things. The adults didn't know how to deal with the rape, so how could they know how to deal with the little girl that was raped? They just didn't talk about it and hoped that the experience would fade with time. It obviously didn't. Chapters 15 & 16 Summary Mrs. Bertha Flowers is a wealthy, educated woman and the closest thing the black community in Stamps has to aristocracy. She and Momma have been friends for years. One day Mrs. Flowers comes into the store and asks Maya to carry her grocery bags home for her and visit for a little while. She tells Maya that speaking is very important in life and gives her a book to read aloud. Mrs. Flowers also challenges Maya to memorize some poems and recite them on her next visit. Once Maya gets her voice back, she begins working for Mrs. Viola Cullinan... Buy the book to continue reading! Follow @hyperink on Twitter! Visit us at www.facebook.com/hyperink! Go to www.hyperink.com to join our newsletter and get awesome freebies!

CHAPTER OUTLINE Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings + About the Book + Introducing the Author + Overall Summary + Chapter-by-Chapter Summary and Commentary + ...and much more Redefining the Black Male in Maya Angelou's I Know why the Caged Bird Sings and All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes

A Book of Poems

Maya Angelou

Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now

I know why the caged bird sings

Presents a collection of essays analyzing Angelou's story, I know why the caged bird sings. Also includes a chronology of events in the author's life.

Through her friendship with Mrs. Flowers, a cultured and gentle Black woman, Marguerite develops self-esteem and an appreciation for great literature.

With the continued expansion of the literary canon, multicultural works of modern literary fiction and autobiography have assumed an increasing importance for students and scholars of American literature. This exciting new series assembles key documents and criticism concerning these works that have so recently become central components of the American literature curriculum. Each casebook will reprint documents relating to the work's historical context and reception, present the best in critical essays, and when possible, feature an interview of the author. The series will provide, for the first time, an accessible forum in which readers can come to a fuller understanding of these contemporary masterpieces and the unique aspects of American ethnic, racial, or cultural experience that they so ably portray. Perhaps more than any other single text, Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings helped to establish the "mainstream" status of the renaissance in black women's writing. This casebook presents a variety of critical approaches to this classic autobiography, along with an exclusive interview with Angelou conducted specially for this volume and a unique drawing of her childhood surroundings in Stamps, Arkansas, drawn by the Angelou herself.

Poems

A poem read for the inauguration of President Clinton looks at the history of the country, its problems, and the opportunities that lie ahead

The author records the years in which her life hinged on retaining her pride and dignity among the street people of Los Angeles.

Maya Angelou has fascinated, moved, and inspired countless readers with the first three volumes of her autobiography, one of the most remarkable personal narratives of our age. Now, in her fourth volume, *The Heart of a Woman*, her turbulent life breaks wide open with joy as the singer-dancer enters the razzle-dazzle of fabulous New York City. There, at the Harlem Writers Guild, her love for writing blazes anew. Her compassion and commitment lead her to respond to the fiery times by becoming the northern coordinator of Martin Luther King's history-making quest. A tempestuous, earthy woman, she promises her heart to one man only to have it stolen, virtually on her wedding day, by a passionate African freedom fighter. Filled with unforgettable vignettes of famous characters, from Billie Holiday to Malcolm X, *The Heart of a Woman* sings with Maya Angelou's eloquent prose -- her fondest dreams, deepest disappointments, and her dramatically tender relationship with her rebellious teenage son. Vulnerable, humorous, tough, Maya speaks with an intimate awareness of the heart within all of us.