



Rising Phoenix: Honoring the Legacy of Maya Angelou





INTRO

Ladies and gentlemen,
esteemed guests, and friends,
today we gather to celebrate
the enduring legacy of a
phenomenal woman—a literary
giant, a civil rights activist, and
a voice that resonates with
power and grace. Welcome to
"Rising Phoenix: Honoring the
Legacy of Maya Angelou."

Early Years:

Born in 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri, Maya

Angelou's early life was marked by challenges that would shape her resilience and wisdom. From a tumultuous childhood to finding her voice through the power of words, Angelou's journey was a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

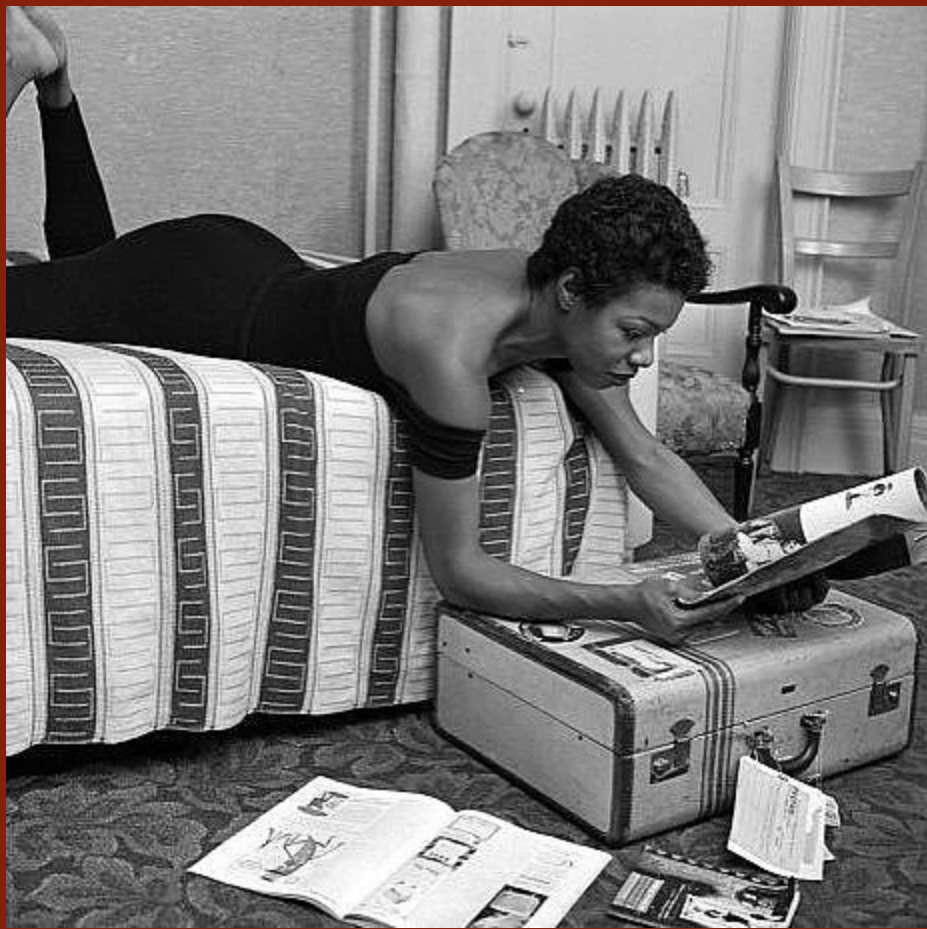


PHOTO: BON GROEFER

Praise for Maya Angelou's

I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS

"... I know that not since the days of my childhood, when people in books were more real than the people one saw every day, have I found myself so moved."
—James Baldwin

"... full of laughter and tears, love and hate, failures and triumphs, and above all, understanding."
—John O. Killens

GATHER TOGETHER IN MY NAME

"*Gather Together in My Name* is part of a select body of literature that includes *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Claude Brown's *Manchild in the Promised Land* and Ernest J. Gaines' *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman*. Maya Angelou regards the world and herself with intelligence and wit; she records the events of her life with style and grace."
—William McPherson

Washington Post Book World

"Here the 'caged bird' soars, and sings in a voice as rich and funny, passionate and mellow as any writer I know."
—Shana Alexander

Maya Angelou's impact on literature is immeasurable. Her autobiographical work, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," not only made literary history but also served as a beacon of inspiration for those facing adversity. Her words, both poetic and poignant, gave a voice to the voiceless.

MAY 9, 2019

"If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the present. Gratefully"



MAYA ANGELOU





PHOTO: JILL KREMENTZ

**SOME OF THE ACCLAIM FOR MAYA ANGELOU'S
JUST GIVE ME A COOL DRINK OF WATER
'FORE I DIIIE**

"... marvelously lyrical, rhythmical poems ..."

—*Library Journal*

"They were written by one who is a professional artist, not a professional protestor or do-gooder or soapbox star, and that does make all the difference in the quality of any writer. Good, real good."

—*Chattanooga Times*

"The natural feeling that made *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* such a special reminiscence gives these verses their claim to poetry."

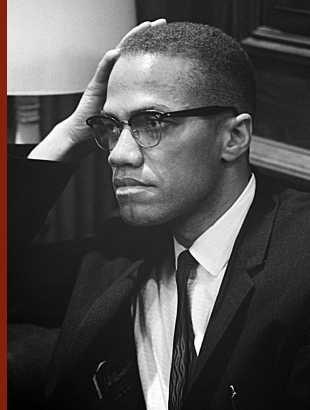
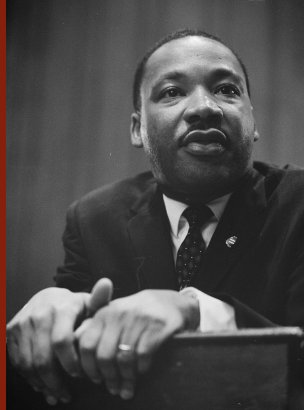
—*Kirkus Reviews*

"I would need Miss Angelou's genius with words to describe the effects of her poetry on my emotions. Poems which one and the same time, with flawless imagery, caress one's sensibility with black velvet sensuousness, shatter the reason of one's protective rationale, assault the sense and shape of one's reality, and delight all the nuances of one's sense of humor."


—*Chester Himes*



Angelou's commitment to justice extended beyond the pages of her books. A prominent figure in the Civil Rights Movement, her collaborations with Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. highlighted her dedication to the fight against racial inequality.



Maya Angelou's poem "Phenomenal Woman" became an anthem for self-love and empowerment. Her ability to capture the essence of womanhood and resilience has inspired generations of individuals to embrace their uniqueness with pride.

A black and white close-up portrait of Maya Angelou, looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The image is partially obscured by text on the left.

I've learned that
people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget
how you made them
feel.

- Maya Angelou

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EVERWISE

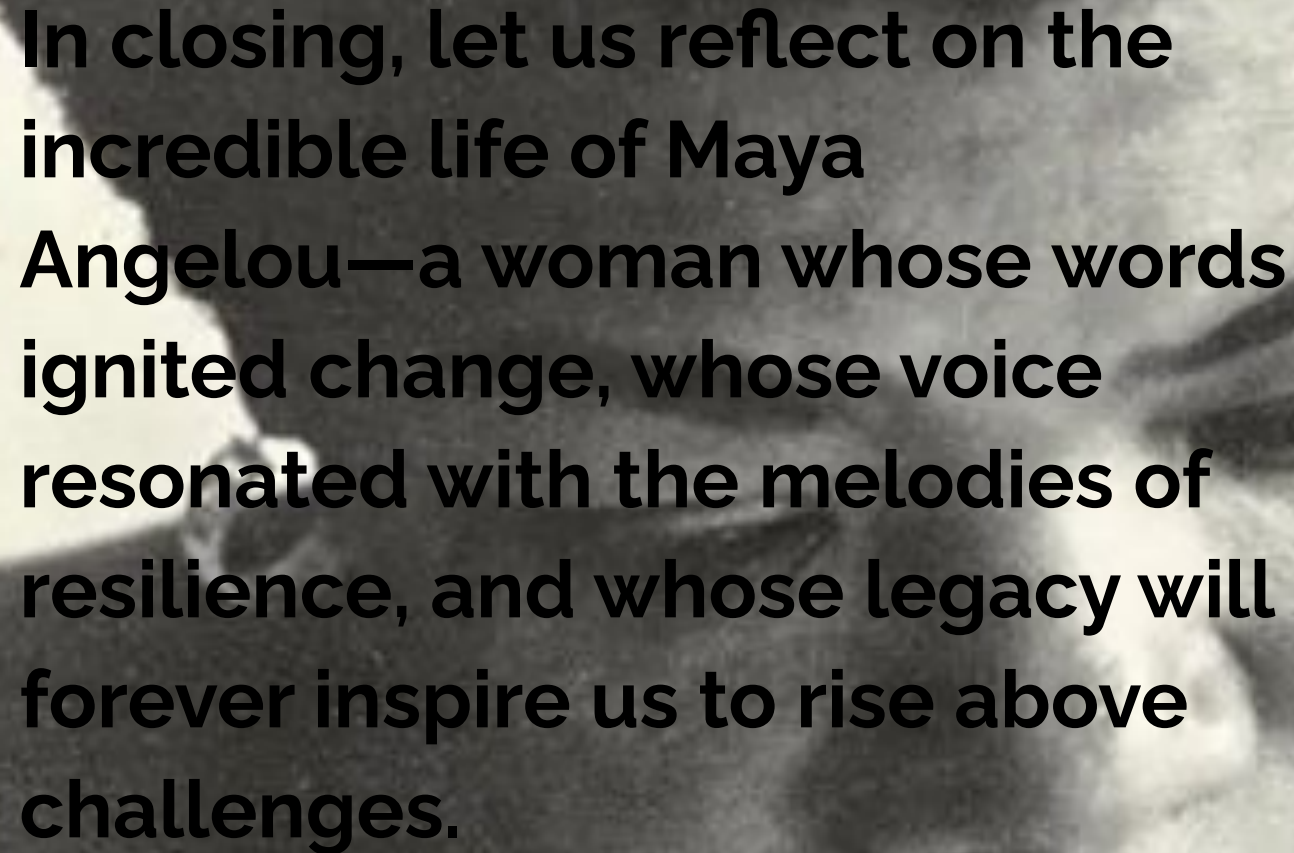
A black and white photograph of Maya Angelou. She is shown from the chest up, smiling warmly. She is wearing a light-colored sleeveless top with a dark, patterned border around the neckline. She is holding a large, leafy plant in front of her. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Maya Angelou's legacy transcends time and continues to shape conversations about identity, equality, and the triumph of the human spirit. Her words echo in the hearts of those who seek inspiration and solace.





People Maya Angelou Influenced



In closing, let us reflect on the incredible life of Maya Angelou—a woman whose words ignited change, whose voice resonated with the melodies of resilience, and whose legacy will forever inspire us to rise above challenges.

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright starburst effect and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with colorful clouds in shades of orange, red, and purple. The foreground shows a sandy beach with gentle waves washing onto it.

Just do right...

Right may not be expedient,
it may not be profitable,
but it will satisfy your soul.

Maya Angelou

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OMSYMPHONYOFLOVE.NET
Photo by Ken Virak

Thank you for joining me as I celebrate the life of Maya Angelou—a true rising phoenix whose spirit continues to soar. May her words forever echo in our hearts.

