

“Still I Rise” By Maya Angelou

Author Bio

Maya Angelou, born in 1928, was an American poet, autobiographer, and civil rights activist working with both Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. She is also seen as an activist for black women and her works have been considered as a defense of black culture. In 2000, She received the National Medal of Arts and in 2010 she received the Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama, the highest honor a civilian can receive from a President.



Background/Historical Information:

“Still I Rise” is a poem published in 1978. Maya Angelou speaks about the hardships she faced while growing up and still faced until she passed away in 2014; the issues she speaks on still exist today. She was an outspoken activist during the Civil Rights movement in the 1960’s and was a feminist who fought for racial justice.

Terms to know:

- **Imagery:** the author’s use of **descriptive language** to **create vivid sensory experiences** for the reader. It appeals to the five senses—**sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch**—helping to paint a picture in the reader’s mind and evoke emotions.
- **Simile:** a figure of speech that **compares two unlike things** using the words **"like" or "as."**
- **Metaphor:** a figure of speech that directly compares two unlike things **without using "like" or "as."** Instead, it states that one thing is another, **implying a deeper, symbolic connection** between them.
- **Personification:** when **human** qualities, characteristics, or actions are **attributed to non-human entities**, such as animals, objects, or abstract concepts.
- **Hyperbole:** the use of **extreme exaggeration** to emphasize a point or create **a strong impression**. It is not meant to be taken literally; instead, it is used for **dramatic effect** or to convey **strong emotions**.
- **Symbolism:** an **image** that represents something **beyond the literal meaning**. It is an object, often ordinary and commonplace, that has been imbued with extraordinary significance.
- **Repetition** is a literary device that repeats the same words or phrases a few times to make an idea clearer and more memorable.
- **Allusion** is a literary device in which the writer or speaker refers either directly or indirectly to a person, event, or thing in history or to a work of art or literature.

Part I: TPCASTT Analysis

**Directions:** As you read the poem with your group, use the [TPCASTT](#) method and the highlighting key to guide your analysis of the poem. Although you may discuss with your group, you must work on your own document, recording the insight that you all came up with together.  
*Listen, Speak, and Learn.*

**Highlighting Key:**  
Similes: **Blue**  
Allusion: **Pink**  
Repetition: **Green**  
Imagery: **Underline**

“Still I Rise”		TPCASTT	
1	You may write me down in history	<u>Title:</u>	
2	With your bitter, twisted lies,		
3	You may trod me in the very dirt		
4	But still, like dust, I'll rise.		
5	Does my sassiness upset you?	<u>Paraphrase</u> (at least 10 Sentences): 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	
6	Why are you beset with gloom?		
7	Just 'cause I walk like I've got oil wells		
8	Pumping in my living room.		
9	Just like moons and like suns,		
10	With the certainty of tides,		
11	Just like hopes springing high,		
12	Still I'll rise.		
13	Did you want to see me broken?		
14	Bowed head and lowered eyes?		
15	Shoulders falling down like teardrops,		
16	Weakened by my soulful cries?		
17	Does my sassiness upset you?		
18	Don't you take it so hard just		
19	'Cause I laugh as if I've got gold mines		
20	Diggin' in my own backyard.		

