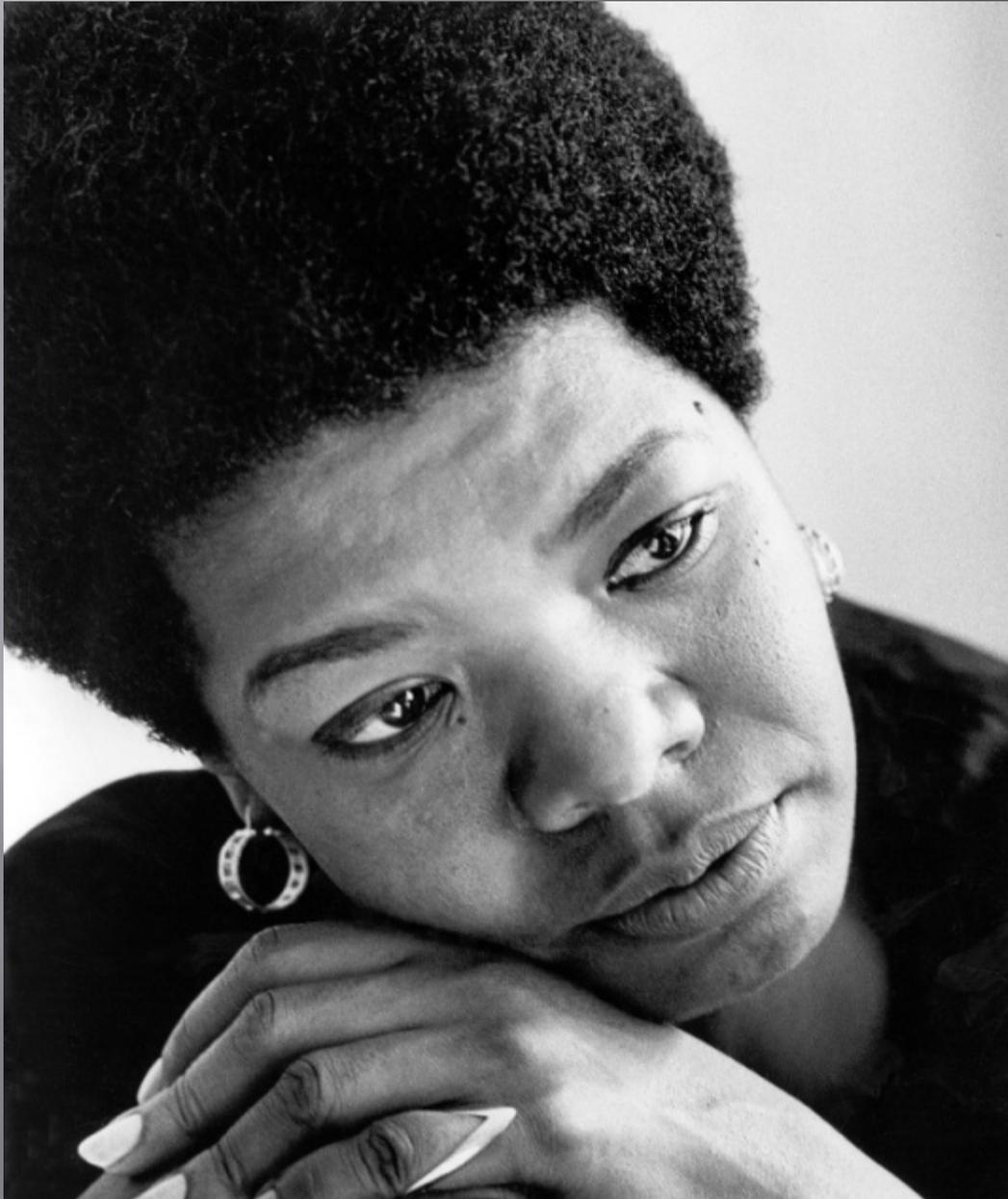


MAYA ANGELOU
1928-2014



▣ **BORN:**

April 4, 1928

Saint Louis, Missouri

▣ **DIED**

May 28, 2014 (aged 86)

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

▣ **NOTABLE WORKS**

“I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”

“Down in the Delta”

“His Day Is Done”

“On the Pulse of Morning”

▣ **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Presidential Medal Of Freedom (2011)

Grammy Award (2002)

Grammy Award (1995)

Grammy Award (1993)

- ▣ “Still I Rise offers an intriguing mixture of tones: playful and defiant, comical and angry, self-assured and bitter. Ultimately, however, the poem’s tone, as the work’s title suggests, is triumphant. The poem itself is a direct response to this kind of oppressive writing. The speaker transforms writing, one of the most important means of domination, into an instrument of liberation. The poem does not begin by emphasizing physical subjugation or literal violence. Instead, it begins by emphasizing the ways the wrong kinds of writing can imprison the minds of both oppressors and the oppressed.
- ▣ Apart from everything the poem is full of energy and inspires to lift your head against every adversity. Hatred and greed cannot be killed but that must not stop you from rising and fighting. The beauty of the poem lies in its simplicity. The underlying pain and the tragedy give it a slightly painful tone. However, that acts to inject more beauty into the poem

Structure

- ▣ Simile:

"like dust, I'll rise"

- ▣ Metaphor:

"I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide"

- ▣ Personification:

"You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes, You may
kill me with your hatefulness,"

- ▣ Tone:

Assertive, Confident, Pride and Sarcasm
(when read aloud for emphasis)

- ▣ Point of View:

Maya Angelou (she is telling the poem)

- ▣ Imagery:

"Oil wells pumping in my living room",
etc.

- ▣ Alliteration:

Repeats "I Rise" and "You may."

- ▣ **Subject:**
Ultimately representing black people, women
- ▣ **Talking About:**
Many people can talk down on and degrade blacks and women but it won't make them stop from rising above it.
- ▣ **Why the Poem was Written:**
To be the voice of those unheard/degraded/put down/un-noticed.
- ▣ **Time Period:**
During the civil rights time period - 1950's/1960's
- ▣ **Where:**
In the "Jim Crow" South
- ▣ **Poem's Attitude:**
Determined, Strong
- ▣ **Shift:**
 1. No major shift except in structure after eighth stanza.
 2. Maya Angelou Reciting "Still I Rise"
 3. 0:43 Seconds Poem Starts

▣ Poetic Devices

➤ Influences on the Author (in her life):

1. Being black and a women during the time period that she was / when this poem was written.
2. Angelou was sexually abused by her mother's boyfriend in 1937.

➤ Influences on the Author (in society):

1. For women rights in that time period
2. Responding to the growing African American Civil Rights Movement in the United States, from the 1950's to the early 1970's