

## I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings Free

The critically acclaimed author and poet recalls the anguish of her childhood in Arkansas and her adolescence in northern slums. Reissue.

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.

Use Novel-Ties® study guides as your total guided reading program. Reproducible pages in chapter-by-chapter format provide you with the right questions to ask, the important issues to discuss, and the organizational aids that help students get the most out of each book they read.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a summary of the book and NOT the original book. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou - A 30-minute Instaread Summary Inside this Instaread Summary: \* Overview of the entire book \* Introduction to the important people in the book \* Summary and analysis of all the chapters in the book \* Key Takeaways of the book \* A Reader's Perspective Preview of this summary: Chapter 1 Marguerite was three and her brother, Bailey, four when they arrived in Stamps, Arkansas. They were to live with their grandmother, Momma Henderson, because their parents in California were divorcing. Momma owned a general store in the heart of the black area and sold lunches to workers all over town. During cotton season, the pickers left their lunch sacks at the store to be filled. Marguerite saw how the grueling, low-paid drudgery wore them down. Years later she would lash out against the stereotype of happy cotton pickers singing in the fields. Chapter 2 Momma's son, Uncle Willie, made sure the children learned their lessons. Uncle Willie was dropped by a baby-sitter as an infant. This accident left his body twisted and one hand deformed. People tried not to look at him. He wore starched shirts and shined shoes. He tried to stand proud, but was the local scapegoat and butt of jokes. In a world where a strong black man could barely get by, Uncle Willie was resented because his family owned a store filled with shelves of food and other goods. One afternoon, he broke down when strangers asked to take his photo. Marguerite felt his pain at being stereotyped as a cripple. Though she read and enjoyed the works of many classical white and black writers, Marguerite fell in love with Shakespeare because the first line in Sonnet 29, "When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes. (Ch2, EPUB)", expressed exactly how she felt, and how she knew Uncle Willie felt...

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.

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

REA's MAXnotes for Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* MAXnotes offer a fresh look at masterpieces of literature, presented in a lively and interesting fashion. Written by literary experts who currently teach the subject, MAXnotes will enhance your understanding and enjoyment of the work. MAXnotes are designed to stimulate independent thought about the literary work by raising various issues and thought-provoking ideas and questions. MAXnotes cover the essentials of what one should know about each work, including an overall summary, character lists, an explanation and discussion of the plot, the work's historical context, illustrations to convey the mood of the work, and a biography of the author. Each chapter is individually summarized and analyzed, and has study questions and answers.

Perfect for Mother's Day, or for any day on which we wish to acknowledge this all-important bond, *Mother* is an awe-inspiring affirmation of the enduring love that exists in every corner of the globe. With her signature eloquence and heartfelt appreciation, renowned poet and national treasure Maya Angelou celebrates the first woman we ever knew: Mother. "You were always the heart of happiness to me," she acknowledges in this loving tribute, "Bringing nougats of glee / Sweets of open laughter." From the beginnings of this profound relationship through teenage rebellion and, finally, to adulthood, where we stand to inherit timeless maternal wisdom, Angelou praises the patience, knowledge, and compassion of this remarkable parent.

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.

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

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.

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 traveling 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.

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

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*Pocket Maya Angelou Wisdom* is a collection of some of her best and most empowering quotes. This is the ultimate keepsake for fans of Maya Angelou's beautiful poetry, as well as for anyone looking for a bit of in-the-moment inspiration to have in their back pocket. Some quotes from Maya Angelou: 'If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.' 'You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.' 'Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.' 'History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, however, if faced with courage, need not be lived again.'

From the beloved and bestselling author of *I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS*, this memoir chronicles Maya Angelou's involvement with the civil rights movement. 'A brilliant writer, a fierce friend and a truly phenomenal woman' **BARACK OBAMA** Maya Angelou's seven 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. The fourth volume of her enthralling autobiography finds Maya Angelou immersed in the world of black writers and artists in Harlem, working in the civil rights movement with Martin Luther King. '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** An Egyptologist investigates a death at the British Museum in a "charming" Victorian mystery by the *New York Times*–bestselling author of *The Painted Queen* (*The Denver Post*). Back in London after an archaeological dig, adventurous sleuth Amelia Peabody—"rather like Indiana Jones, Sherlock Holmes and Miss Marple all rolled into one"—discovers that a night watchman at the museum has perished in the shadow of a mummy case (*The Washington Post Book World*). There are murmurings about an ancient curse, but a skeptical Amelia is determined to find an all-too-human killer. Soon, she's balancing family demands, including the troubles of her precocious son, Ramses (aka Walter), with not just one unsolved crime, but two . . . From a recipient of multiple honors including the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Award, this murder mystery set in Victorian-era England is a witty, rollicking, and "deeply satisfying" romp (*Entertainment Weekly*) in a "jewel of a series" (*The New York Times Book Review*).

Presents a graphic novel version of "The Little Match Girl," adapted by Michael O'Connell and Jeff Curtis from the story by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875).

The perfect companion to Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," this study guide contains a chapter by chapter analysis of the book, a summary of the plot, and a guide to major characters and themes. BookCap Study Guides do not contain text from the actual book, and are not meant to be purchased as alternatives to reading the book.

Born in Missouri in 1928, Maya Angelou had a difficult childhood. Jim Crow laws segregated blacks and whites in the South. Her family life was unstable at times. But much like her poem, "Still I Rise," Angelou was able to lift herself out of her situation and flourish. She moved to California and became the first black—and first female—streetcar operator before following her interest in dance. She became a professional performer in her twenties and toured the U.S. and Europe as an opera star and calypso dancer. But Angelou's writing became her defining talent. Her poems and books, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, brought her international acclaim.

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Eerste deel van de autobiografie van een vrouw die opgroeit bij haar grootmoeder op het platteland in het zuiden van de VS, waar ze als zwart meisje de minachting aan den lijve ervaart.

The original CliffsNotes study guides offer expert commentary on major themes, plots, characters, literary devices, and historical background. The latest generation of titles in this series also feature glossaries and visual elements that complement the classic, familiar format. Piqued by a dare, Angelou wrote this first book as an exercise in autobiography as art—and succeeded. Her novel is a story of the difficulties of black women and the eventual victory of spirit that comes from being a soulful fighter. CliffsNotes on I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings helps you explore this tale of rebirth, self-worth, and dignity. This concise supplement helps you understand the overall structure of the novel, actions and motivations of the characters, and the social and cultural perspectives of the author. Features that help you study include A close look at the author's life which offers insight into her writing A list of characters and their descriptions Summaries and commentaries, chapter by chapter Critical assessments of the novel and the television movie adaptation Glossaries to help you fully understand the novel Critical essays on women in the novel and Southern Fundamentalism A review section that tests your knowledge, and suggested essay topics Classic literature or modern-day treasure—you'll understand it all with expert information and insight from CliffsNotes study guides.

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.

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.

Offers a look at the historical context of Maya Angelou's autobiography

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!

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

Maya Angelou's memoir I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings has fascinated readers for decades with its rare combination of stunningly beautiful writing and unflinching exploration of the rifts that divide America. With this guide, you can appreciate and comprehend Angelou's achievement and motivations fully: Why is this one of the most frequently banned books in American schools? How does Angelou's anger affect her memoir? What other landmark American autobiographies influenced Angelou?

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

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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

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