

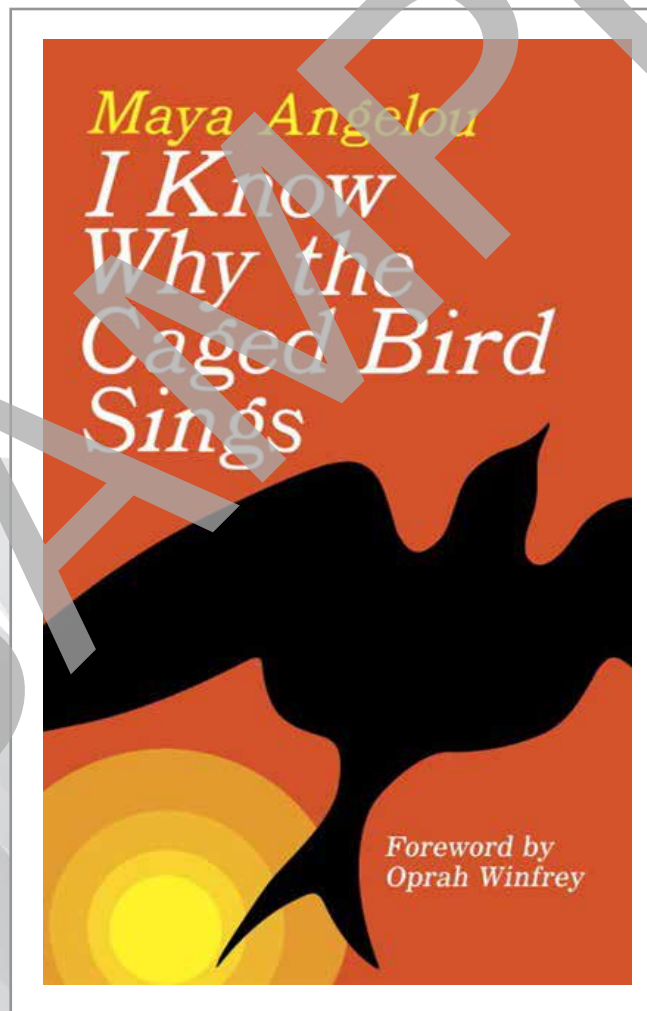


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Maya Angelou



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Maya Angelou

STUDENT PACKET

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

ISBN 978-1-50204-679-6

Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2020 by Novel Units, Inc., St. Louis, MO. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc.

Reproduction of any part of this publication for an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Conn Education.

Printed in the United States of America.

To order, contact your local school supply store, or:

Toll-Free Fax: 877.716.7272

Phone: 888.650.4224

3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

sales@novelunits.com

novelunits.com

Name _____

Directions: Write a brief answer for each question. Some of the questions are “thinking” questions, so they have no right or wrong answers—but you should be able to back up your answers in class discussion. Use the answers to these study questions when you review for the mid-book quiz and final test.

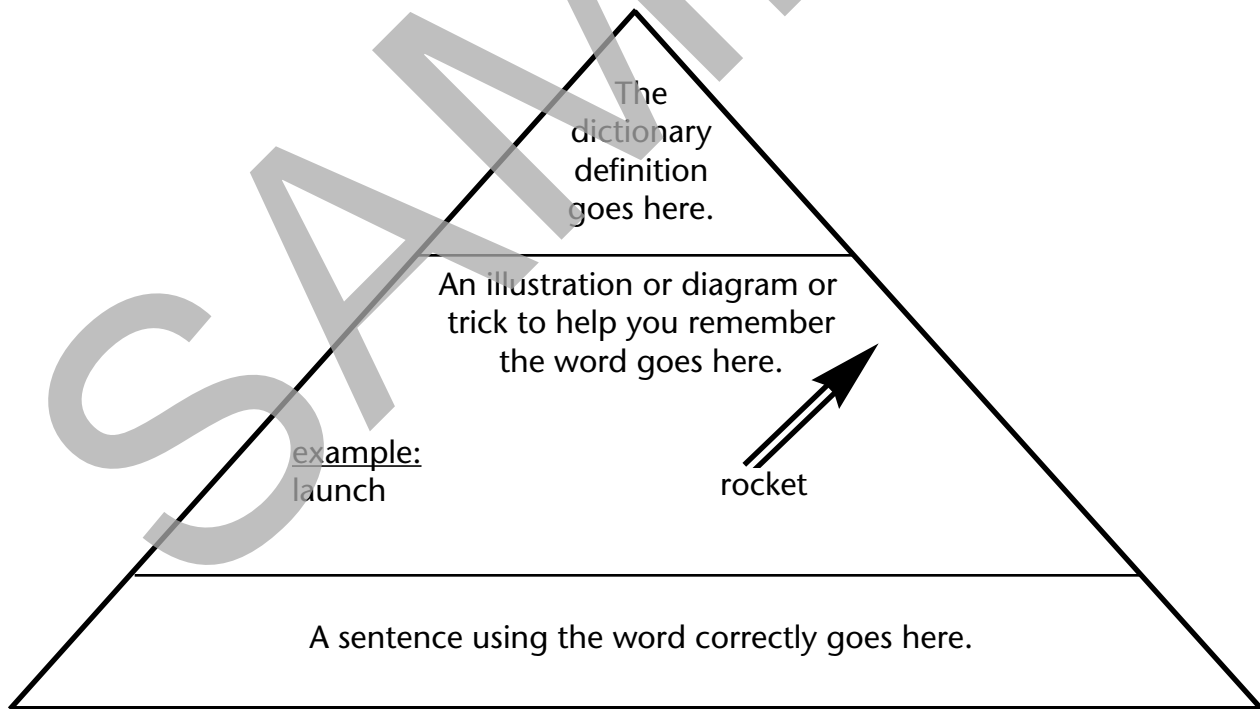
Introductory Pages and Chapters 1-5

1. What did Marguerite hope the made-over lavender dress would do for her?
2. How do you think Marguerite feels about being an African-American?
3. Why did the children’s parents send them to Stamps, Arkansas?
4. What is the guiding force in Momma’s life?
5. How does Marguerite describe the cotton-pickers’ lives?
6. How does Marguerite feel about Uncle Willie? How is he related to her?
7. Do you think Momma’s dislike for white writers reflects prejudice against whites?
8. How do you know that Marguerite has a good deal of self-discipline for a small child?
9. How is opening the front door of the Store like “pulling the ribbon off the unexpected gift”?
10. Why did Uncle Willie hide in the vegetable bin?
11. Describe Bailey. Include Marguerite’s feelings about him.
12. Would you describe Stamps as integrated or segregated? How do Bailey and Marguerite regard “whitefolksville”?
13. What are Momma’s two most important rules? Are these good rules to live by for children today?
14. Why does Momma “keep her cool” so well when she is being aped by the “powhitetrash” girls? How does witnessing the incident affect Marguerite?
15. Why is it important to Marguerite to rake the yard again after the girls leave?

Name _____

Group 1 Words	Group 2 Words	Group 3 Words	Group 4 Words
conclusiveness 31 pandemonium 33 eventuality 35 sobriquet 39 gaffe 39 hamlet 42 illusory 44 quadron 50 leniency 51 articulate 57	relish 31 infused 33 intimidated 35 chifforobe 39 indulged 40 vanity 43 cynic 45 octoroon 50 flamboyant 55 appellation 57	ominous 31 dais 33 venue 35 subpoenaed 39 lavishly 40 admonish 43 bombastic 46 finesse 51 escapades 55 proximity 57	brimstone 31 aversion 34 pallet 38 bailiff 39 cyclonic 41 engulfed 44 assailed 49 pince-nez 51 reprobation 56 impassivity 57

Directions: You will be assigned to Group 1, 2, 3, or 4. Work with the other members of your group to complete a tri-graph for each word on your group's list. Some people in the group should be Dictionary Consultants, others the Group Artists, and others the Staff Writers. When your tri-graphs are completed, share them with the other groups.



Name _____

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
Activity #16: Character Relationships
Use After Reading

Directions: At 16, the most significant people in Marguerite’s life were Momma, Mrs. Flowers, Bailey, her mother (Vivian Baxter), and Miss Kirwin. In each character’s section, write a brief description of what Marguerite learned from the character and why he or she was so important to her.

