



And Still I Rise

Maya Angelou

Discussion Questions

- How is Angelou's past reflected in this poem? Is she hurt because of what she has experienced? Is there another attitude that she portrays?
- How does repetition contribute to her strong and assured tone?
- What similes and metaphors does she use? How do they relate back to her overall message?
- What social and personal issues does she address?
- Who is her audience and why does that add to the meaning of the poem?
- What can you assume about her character by the overall message of the poem or by her prose?
- Maya Angelou's writing spoke to segregation and the mistreatment of minorities in the 1950s and '60s. Do you think her poetry speaks to the racial climate in 21st century America? Why or why not?