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## APPENDIXES

### A. Synopsis of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is an autobiography by Maya Angelou that was first published in 1969, narrating the story of Maya's early life. The novel started off with Maya and her brother being sent off to live with their paternal grandmother and uncle in a segregated neighborhood after their parents divorced.

The grandmother owned a Store in Stamps where Maya and Bailey spent their early childhood in. Maya and Bailey would play around or watching the customers coming over to the store, most of the time are the workers of cotton field. Unlike children of her age, Maya had already conscious about her appearance because oftentimes, people would comment on her features and praised on Bailey's look. Her father came to Stamps unannounced when she was 7 years old to pick them up and drive them away to St. Louis to meet their mother. For Maya, her father was a stranger, and seeing her mother for the very first time, Maya concluded that her mother was too beautiful to have children, that's why she sent them away.

Maya's life took a horrible turn when she was sexually assaulted by her Mother's boyfriend, Mr. Freeman. When Mr. Freeman died as the consequences of tions, Maya believed it was her own fault and decided to silenced herself and ed to talk to anyone other than her brother. When the siblings were sent back



to Stamps again, Maya found a supporting environment in a form of a friend, and being helped by Mrs. Bertha Flowers to start speaking again.

After years of living in Stamps, Maya then lived with her Mother again in California. Maya enjoyed her life in California and her Mother's new partner, Daddy Clidell, whom she considered as her first real father. Later, Maya was invited by her real father to live with him and his new partner for a little while. Life took another little turn for Maya there, where she went homeless and had to learn how to grow up and survive on her own before coming back to her Mother in California.

The book ended up when Maya slowly discovered herself and no longer feel inferior about her appearance. When she got pregnant, Maya hid her pregnancy for months, and when she told her parents, they supported her decision. Maya gave birth to a baby boy and fell in love with motherhood immediately. As she was about to go back to sleep with her baby in her arms, Maya's mother whispered to her, "See, you don't have to think about doing the right thing. If you're for the right thing, then you do it without thinking."

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## B. Biography of Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou was born as Marguerite Johnson on April 4th, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri and raised in St. Louis and Stamps, Arkansas. Maya Angelou became one of the most renowned and influential voices of our time. With over 50 honorary doctorate degrees Dr. Maya Angelou became a celebrated poet, memoirist, educator, dramatist, producer, actress, historian, filmmaker, and civil rights.

Angelou's interest in the written word and the English language was evident from an early age. Throughout her childhood, she wrote essays, poetry, and kept a journal.

As an African American, Angelou experienced firsthand racial prejudices and discrimination in Arkansas. She also suffered violence at home when she was around the age of 7. During a visit with her mother, Maya was raped by her mother's boyfriend. As vengeance for the sexual assault, her uncles killed the boyfriend. Young Maya was so traumatized by the experience that she stopped talking. She returned to Arkansas and spent about five years as a virtual mute.

A short-lived high school relationship resulted in Maya becoming pregnant. She was 16 years old when she delivered her son, Guy Johnson, in 1944. After his birth, she worked a number of jobs to support herself and her child.



Around this time, Maya moved to San Francisco and won a scholarship to study dance and acting at the California Labor School. She also became the first Black female cable car conductor, a job she held only briefly, in San Francisco.

In 1950, African American writers in New York City formed the Harlem Writers Guild to nurture and support the publication of Black authors. Angelou joined the Guild in 1959. She also became active in the Civil Rights Movement and served as the northern coordinator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a prominent African American advocacy organization

In 1969, Angelou published *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, an autobiography of her early life. Her tale of personal strength amid childhood trauma and racism resonated with readers and was nominated for the National Book Award. Many schools sought to ban the book for its frank depiction of sexual abuse, but it is credited with helping other abuse survivors tell their stories. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* has been translated into numerous languages and has sold over a million copies worldwide. Angelou eventually published six more autobiographies, culminating in 2013's *Mom & Me & Mom*.

She wrote numerous poetry volumes, such as the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Just Give me a Drink of Water 'fore I Diie* (1971), as well as several collections. She also recorded spoken albums of her poetry, including “Onulse of the Morning,” for which she won a Grammy for Best Spoken Word



Album. The poem was originally written for and delivered at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. She also won a Grammy in 1995, and again in 2002, for her spoken albums of poetry.

Angelou carried out a wide variety of activities on stage and screen as a writer, actor, director, and producer. In 1972, she became the first African American woman to have her screen play turned into a film with the production of *Georgia, Georgia*. Angelou earned a Tony nomination in 1973 for her supporting role in Jerome Kitty's play *Look Away*, and portrayed Kunta Kinte's grandmother in the television miniseries *Roots* in 1977.

She was recognized by many organizations both nationally and internationally for her contributions to literature. In 1981, Wake Forest University offered Angelou the Reynolds Professorship of American Studies. President Clinton awarded Angelou the National Medal of Arts in 2000. In 2012, she was a member of the inaugural class inducted into the Wake Forest University Writers Hall of Fame. The following year, she received the National Book Foundation's Literarian Award for outstanding service to the American literary community. Angelou also gave many commencement speeches and was awarded more than 30 honorary degrees in her lifetime.

Angelou died on May 28, 2014. Several memorials were held in her honor, including ones at Wake Forest University and Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco. To honor her legacy, the US Postal Service issued a stamp with her



likeness on it in 2015. (The US Postal Service mistakenly included a quote on the stamp that has long been associated with Angelou but was actually first written by Joan Walsh Anglund.)

In 2010, President Barack Obama awarded Angelou the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor. It was a fitting recognition for Angelou's remarkable and inspiring career in the arts.

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