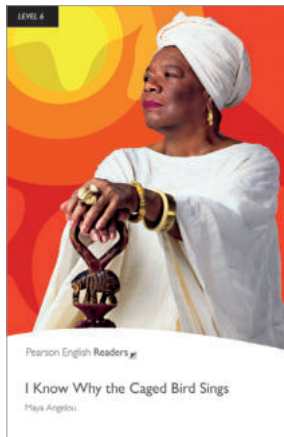


I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Maya Angelou



About the author

Born on April 4, 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri, Maya Angelou was originally named Marguerite Ann Johnson by her parents, but her brother, who was one at the time, gave her the name "Maya" when he was first learning how to speak. Her father worked as a doorman and then as a naval dietitian, and her mother spent time as a nurse, a real estate agent and a merchant marine. When Angelou was three years old, her parents got divorced. Her father sent her and her brother to live with his mother in Stamps, Arkansas. Angelou's first book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, published in 1969 and nominated for the National Book Award, is an account of her life up to the age of seventeen. It was Angelou's first of six autobiographical books.

Four years later, Angelou's father showed up in Stamps unexpectedly and took her and her brother back to St. Louis, where they lived with their mother. When Angelou was eight years old, she was sexually abused by her mother's boyfriend. She told her brother about the abuse, and he eventually shared the information with the rest of the family. Angelou's mother's boyfriend was arrested and put in jail for a day, and four days later, he was found dead after being severely beaten. Shortly after the incident, Angelou stopped speaking completely because she believed that if she spoke, her mouth would produce "something that would kill people randomly." Believing that it was better not to talk, she maintained her silence for nearly five years.

Angelou and her brother returned to their grandmother's house in Stamps. She made a close friend in town, a teacher named Bertha Flowers, who helped her start speaking again. Flowers also inspired her to start reading

classical literature. A few years later, Angelou and her brother went to San Francisco to live with their mother. During World War II, Angelou studied dance and drama via a scholarship at the California Labor School. She also got a job as the first black female streetcar conductor in San Francisco's history. Shortly after graduating from the California Labor School, she had a son, whom she named Guy Johnson. He would also grow up to be a poet.

Gather Together in My Name, which was Angelou's second autobiography, was published in 1974. It tells the story of her life between the ages of seventeen and nineteen, revealing the hardships involved in being a single mother living in poverty. During this time, Angelou struggled to raise her son. Her relationships, jobs and cities changed regularly, and at one point, she even worked as a prostitute, which led to her son being kidnapped. However, in the end, despite the many hardships, she managed to survive, relying on her instincts and inner strengths. Eventually, she learned to embrace the fact that she was a black woman, and to define herself in those terms.

In 1962, Angelou moved to Ghana, West Africa, where she became close friends with the famous Civil Rights leader, Malcolm X. Two years later, she returned to America to help Malcolm X found the Organization of African American Unity. However, the other famous Civil Rights leader, Martin Luther King, Junior, who was also her close friend, was assassinated on her birthday in 1968. King's death affected Angelou deeply. In fact, she didn't celebrate her birthday for many years afterward. She tried to overcome her sadness by writing *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which went on to become an international success.

Angelou was a famous African-American author, poet, historian, actress, playwright, civil rights activist, producer and director. She was often asked to speak or read from her writings for important occasions. For example, in 1993, she wrote the poem *On the Pulse of Morning* for former U.S. president Bill Clinton to be read at his inauguration as the forty-second president of the United States. She was also a regular member of the lecture circuit, earning tens of thousands of dollars per appearance. In 2002, she sold the use of her name and poems to the world's biggest greeting card company, Hallmark, and in 2008, she was the focus of the television series *African American Lives 2*. She died in 2014.

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Summary

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings recounts the trials and tribulations of Maya Angelo's life growing up as an impoverished black woman in the southern United States. Its story focuses on Angelou's childhood during the depressed times of the 1930s and the war-torn times of the 1940s. Her heartbreaking story reveals the prejudice, poverty, segregation and hardship that almost all African-Americans suffered at that time.

Chapters 1–4: The story starts by highlighting the personal suffering of an innocent little girl and her older brother, whose parents end up getting divorced and abandoning them. When their parents' marriage ends, three-year-old Maya (whose real name is Marguerite) and four-year-old Bailey are sent by train from Long Beach, California to Stamps, Arkansas, where they live with their paternal grandmother, whom they call "Momma." Their parents have given up on their marriage, and, more importantly, they have given up on their children and being parents to them. Marguerite's life has just gotten harder.

Chapters 5–8: When Marguerite turns eight years old, her father reappears on the scene and takes her and her brother back to St. Louis to meet up with their mother. He leaves them with her—a decision that eventually leads to Marguerite's being raped by her mother's boyfriend, Mr. Freeman. After Mr. Freeman is convicted of rape—a crime for which he serves one day in jail—he is found murdered in an alley. Marguerite blames herself for the man's death and stops talking to everyone except Bailey.

Chapters 9–15: Later, she finds a true friend, Louise, and begins to talk and smile again. The anger, frustration and hopelessness felt by an intelligent, hardworking black female student with no possibility to use her talents and no prospects for the future is painfully described when Angelou writes about her graduation from high school. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is her story of childhood, adolescence—and loss of innocence.

Background and themes

Segregation: In the 1930s and 1940s, African-Americans living in the southern United States were treated with contempt by the majority of white people. The country was divided by segregation—a formal policy in which black people weren't allowed to attend good schools, get high-paying jobs, live in valuable houses or receive

proper medical treatment for their ailments. They weren't even allowed to sit among white people on public buses, or drink from the same water fountains, as they were considered to be unworthy of equality. They weren't slaves anymore—the Civil War brought an end to that inhumanity and social injustice—but they were still thought to be "sub-human." In short, the policy of segregation did everything within its power to ensure that black people remained poor and ignorant—and most importantly, below white people on the hierarchy of power and privilege.

The Ku Klux Klan: During the times depicted in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, black people had to treat white people with respect and display great humility in their presence. They were employed by white people, who paid them very little for their services. The Ku Klux Klan, which still exists in the southern United States today, was a dominant organization of white men who didn't hesitate to take the law into their own hands. They attacked and killed black people, whom they thought deserved to be treated like animals. The Klan members always attacked at night. They wore long white robes and tall white hats, and they carried burning torches. They often burned down black people's houses while the families were still inside them. For example, if a white woman claimed that she had been raped by a black man, there was no need for a trial—the Klan "took care" of the alleged rapist themselves. If the black man said that he was innocent, he was likely to be tortured before being killed.

Living at the bottom of society: Segregation bred superiority and inferiority—a causal relationship that ultimately led to hostility, fear and hatred. During the time depicted in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, black children feared white people, and in fact, as in the case of the author, they often didn't view them as human beings. They were something else entirely—something that could seriously hurt and even kill them for no reason other than the fact that they had been born with dark skin. At that time in America, women—both black and white—held a lower place in society than men did, so being a black woman was as low in society as one could be. They weren't white, and they weren't men; the only creature they had superiority over was the family dog. Black women like Marguerite (and by implication, Angelou) were servants to white people and black men. They received no respect, and as a result, they had no hope for the future. They existed within society, but they had no opportunity of improving their positions within it.

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If black men were seen as sub-human by white people, black women were considered to be sub-sub-human by white and black people alike.

Life in the north: Life was cruel and unjust for black people living in the south, but fortunately things were different in the north. Black people living in the north had a much easier time than those in the south. The north wasn't completely free from segregation, but black people certainly had more opportunity of bettering themselves in the north. For example, if they worked hard, they could get respectable jobs and earn a decent living. They had better housing options, and they had access to proper medical care. They could afford to wear stylish clothes and carve out identities for themselves and their cultures. In *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Marguerite moves at the age of eight from Arkansas to St. Louis, and she finds the lifestyle of her relatives living in the north completely different from that of her relatives living in the south. For her, the north is a completely different world. It isn't a perfect world, but at least it is a world with hope.

Discussion activities

Chapters 1–3

Before reading

- 1 **Discuss:** Ask students to look at the picture on the cover of the book. *What does the woman in the picture look like? What kind of clothing is she wearing? What is she holding? What is she doing in the picture? Who do you think she is? Why do you think this? What do you think she is like? Why do you think this? Do you like the picture? Why/why not? Does it make you want to read the book? Why/why not?*
- 2 **Discuss:** Put students into small groups and get them to read the description on the back cover of the book. Then get them to look at the front cover of the book and think about the title. Finally, get them to discuss the following questions:
What do you know about Maya Angelou?
How is Angelou's life as an adult different from her life as a child?
How is her life as an adult the same as her life as a child?
What do you think the book will be about? Why do you think this?
What do you think the title of the book means? Why do you think this?
Why do you think the author chose to use this title?
Do you like the title of the book? Why/why not?
Does the title make you want to read the book? Why/why not?

- 3 **Pair work:** Put students into pairs and get them to read the introduction to the book. Then get them to imagine that the author is going to give a lecture at their school. Ask the pairs to write ten questions that they would like to ask her. Note that the questions should be about Angelou, her life or *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. (After they read the book, they can come back to the list of questions and then write answers that they imagine Angelou would give.)
- 4 **Research:** Ask students to bring information about the Ku Klux Klan to class. Put a large piece of paper on the wall and then get students to attach their information to the piece of paper to make a wall display.

After reading

- 5 **Discuss:** Put students into groups and get them to discuss the ways in which Marguerite's childhood was different from the childhood of a black girl living in the southern United States nowadays. Then get them to discuss the ways in which her childhood was the same. Finally, after the groups have discussed the issue for fifteen minutes, ask the students to return to their seats and have a class discussion.
- 6 **Pair work:** Write the following adjectives on the board: *affectionate, ambitious, ashamed, protective, superstitious* and *vicious*. Then put students into pairs and get them to match each adjective with a character in the story and give reasons to justify their choices. When they have finished, the pairs should stand at the front of the class and read the adjective-character pairings and their reasons to their classmates.

Chapters 4–6

Before reading

- 7 **Research:** Put students into pairs and get them to look up the words *discrimination* and *segregation* in a dictionary or on the Internet. Make the exercise into a competition—the first pair of students to find the definitions wins. They should stand up and read the definitions out loud to the rest of the class. Finally, they should use the words in sentences as examples.

After reading

- 8 **Pair work:** Write the following columns of words and phrases on the board. Put students into pairs and get them to work together to match the words and phrases from each column in order to make phrases that appear in Chapter 4. After you write the correct phrases on the board so that the pairs can check their answers, get them to write their own sentences using each of the phrases. When they have finished, the pairs should stand at the front of the class and read the sentences to their classmates.

a	poor white	1	wear
b	big, white	2	woman
c	did a	3	court

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- | | | | |
|---|--------------|----|--------------|
| d | folded her | 4 | white things |
| e | assaulting a | 5 | handstand |
| f | appear in | 6 | trash |
| g | contempt for | 7 | arms |
| h | ready-to- | 8 | apron |
| i | all things | 9 | want not |
| j | spend | 10 | white |
| k | waste not | 11 | money |
| l | sinfully | 12 | proud |
- 9 Discuss:** Put students into small groups and get them to discuss the following questions:
Why do you think Grandmother Baxter chooses to help the gamblers and whiskey salesmen?
Do you think she is right or wrong to help them? Why do you think this?
How do you think the other characters feel about her decision to help the gamblers and whiskey salesmen?
Why do you think they feel this way?
- 10 Artwork:** Put students into pairs and get them to draw a picture to describe a scene from Chapters 4 to 6. When they have finished, the pairs should stand at the front of the classroom and describe their picture to the rest of the class, and the class should guess which scene the picture illustrates.
- 11 Discuss:** Put students into small groups and get them to discuss the effects of the following things on Marguerite:
- her father's way of speaking
 - her mother's beauty
 - Mr. Freeman's attention
 - Mr. Freeman's death

Chapters 7–9

Before reading

- 12 Research:** Put students into small groups and get them to look for information about Stamps, Arkansas, in the library, on the Internet, etc. Then get them to make a travel brochure to promote the city. When they have finished, the groups should stand at the front of the classroom and present their travel brochure to the rest of the class.
- 13 Guess:** Ask students to predict what will happen to Marguerite and the other characters in Chapters 7 to 9.
- 14 Discuss:** Ask students to think about why Chapter 8 is called *Two Women*. *Who do you think the two women in the title are? Why do you think this? Do you think they are important to the story? Why/why not? What do you think the two women will do in the chapter? Why do you think this? Do you like the title of the chapter? Why/ why not?*

After reading

- 15 Check:** Review students' predictions about what would happen to Marguerite and the other characters in Chapters 7 to 9. Check if their predictions were right or wrong.

- 16 Artwork:** Get students to draw a picture of one of the characters in Chapters 7 to 9. When they have finished, they should stand at the front of the classroom and describe their picture to the rest of the class, and the class should guess which character the picture illustrates.
- 17 Discuss:** Put students into small groups and get them to discuss the following questions:
How does Marguerite feel when Mrs. Flowers says her name? Why does she feel this way?
How does she feel about being called "Margaret" and "Mary?" Why does she feel this way?
What other names do people call her? Why do they call her these names?
How does she feel about being called these names? Why does she feel this way?
Do you think names are important? Why/why not?
Have you ever been called names other than your real name? If so, what name(s) have you been called? How did you feel when you were called a different name? Why did you feel this way?
- 18 Write:** Write the following combinations of letters on the board—they are anagrams of words that can be found in Chapters 7 to 9. Put students into groups and get them to work together to find the words in the story and spell them correctly. Note that one person in the group should write the words on a piece of paper. When they have finished, some of the groups should stand at the front of the class and read the list of words to their classmates.
- | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---|---------|---|--------|
| a | ocmofrt | b | onlley | c | mafliy |
| d | erxal | e | iytc | f | radk |
| g | dnik | h | dourp | i | locor |
| j | tane | k | ressd | l | oivec |
| m | raedm | n | yitp | o | eil |
| p | dreinf | q | yarpre | r | riant |
| s | ovel | t | fulathe | | |
- 19 Artwork:** Get students to draw a picture to describe how Marguerite feels about Tommy Valdon at the end of Chapter 9. When they have finished, they should stand at the front of the classroom and describe their picture to the rest of the class. The class should draw the picture as it is being described and then compare the pictures.

Chapters 10–12

Before reading

- 20 Discuss:** Ask students to think about why Chapter 10 is called *Graduation*. *What is a graduation? Who do you think graduates in the chapter? Why do you think this? What do you think he or she graduates from? Why do you think this? Do you like the title of the chapter? Why/why not?*
- 21 Research:** Put students into small groups and get them to look for information about San Francisco, California in the library, on the Internet, etc. Then get them to make a travel brochure to promote the city.

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When they have finished, the groups should stand at the front of the classroom and present their travel brochure to the rest of the class.

After reading

- 22 Role play:** Put students into pairs and get them to imagine the conversation that Marguerite might have had with her friend Louise after the graduation ceremony. Get them to write out and practice the conversation. When they have finished, the pairs should stand at the front of the classroom and role play the conversation in front of the class.
- 23 Artwork:** Put students into pairs and get them to draw a picture to describe a scene from Chapters 10 to 12. When they have finished, the pairs should stand at the front of the classroom and describe their picture to the rest of the class, and the class should guess which scene the picture illustrates.
- 24 Write:** Point out to students that in Chapter 11, Marguerite has to write a number of letters to her parents explaining to them that she and Momma are on their way to California, and that Bailey will come later on. Put students into pairs and get them to write one of these letters. Student A is Marguerite and Student B is Momma. Momma should tell Marguerite what to write in the letter, and Marguerite should carry out her requests. When they have finished, some of the pairs should stand at the front of the classroom and read their letter to the rest of the class.
- 25 Write:** Put students into small groups and get them to write a sentence to describe what happens in Chapter 12. Point out that the sentence needs to be concise while expressing the main event(s) in the chapter. When they have finished, the groups should read their sentence to the rest of the class. Finally, take a vote to find out which group wrote the best sentence.
- 26 Pair work:** Put students into pairs and get them to write three questions that they have regarding Chapters 10 to 12. When they have finished, ask them to exchange their list with another group and write answers to the other group's questions. Finally, some of the pairs should stand at the front of the classroom and read their questions and the answers they have been provided with to the rest of the class.
- 27 Discuss:** Put students into small groups and get them to discuss the following questions:
How is Marguerite's and other black students' education different from that of white students?
Why do you think black students and white students received different educations at the time in the story?

Chapters 13–15

Before reading

- 28 Research:** Put students into pairs and get them to look up the word *maturity* in a dictionary or on the Internet. Make the exercise into a competition—the

first pair of students to find the definition wins. They should stand up and read the definition out loud to the rest of the class. Finally, they should use the word in a sentence as an example.

- 29 Guess:** Ask students to predict what will happen to Marguerite and the other characters in Chapters 13 to 15.

After reading

- 30 Check:** Review students' predictions about what would happen to Marguerite and the other characters in Chapters 7 to 9. Check if their predictions were right or wrong.
- 31 Pair work:** Put students into pairs and get them to make a list of the events described in Chapter 13. Then get them to discuss how they would behave if they were in the same situation that Marguerite is in. Would they react the same way that Marguerite does to the situation? Why/why not? Point out to students that they should choose one event from the chapter and write about how they think they would react if they were in Marguerite's place.
- 32 Pair work:** Write the following columns of words and phrases on the board. Put students into pairs and get them to work together to match the words and phrases from each column in order to make phrases that appear in Chapters 13 to 15. After you write the correct phrases on the board so that the pairs can check their answers, get them to write their own sentences using each of the phrases. When they have finished, the pairs should stand at the front of the class and read the sentences to their classmates.
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| a nervous | 1 of town |
| b outskirts | 2 papers |
| c talent | 3 encouragement |
| d insurance | 4 to worry about |
| e screaming like a | 5 with a foreign language |
| f hopelessly | 6 diploma |
| g positive | 7 in love |
| h application | 8 crazy person |
| i pay | 9 with excitement |
| j high school | 10 form |
| k nothing | 11 thinking |
| l without | 12 for what you get |
- 33 Pair work:** Put students into pairs and get them to discuss what Marguerite might write in her diary on the day that she gets the job as the first female black conductor in San Francisco. After their discussion, they should work together to write the diary entry. When they have finished, the pairs should stand at the front of the classroom and read their diary entry to the rest of the class.

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While reading

Chapters 1–3

1 Match the questions with the answers.

- Where did Marguerite's light purple dress come from?
- In her imagination, why is Marguerite black?
- What goes down Marguerite's legs?
- Why does Marguerite laugh as she runs down into the yard?
- What does Marguerite know is going to happen to her when she gets home?
- How often does Marguerite eat fresh meat?
- How does Marguerite feel about going into town with money in her pocket?
- How does Marguerite think white people walk?
 - Because a magician turned her into a black girl.
 - On their heels like horses.
 - Twice a year.
 - Pee.
 - It belonged to a white woman.
 - She is going to get a whipping.
 - Because she is free from the silly church.
 - Joyful.

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- Marguerite and Bailey are sent by ship to live with their grandmother. ☐
- Uncle Willie has been crippled since he was born. ☐
- Marguerite wishes that Uncle Willie was her father. ☐
- Uncle Willie hides his walking stick, stands erect and pretends not to be crippled. ☐
- The couple take a picture of Uncle Willie in the Store. ☐

Chapters 4–6

3 Finish these sentences.

- If Marguerite goes to bed with dirty feet, Momma wakes her in the night by hitting her feet with a
- If Momma wasn't polite to the poor-white-trash girls, she wouldn't have the contest.

- If the judge knew that Mrs. Henderson was a black woman, he wouldn't call her
- If Momma didn't own and houses, Uncle Willie wouldn't be able to wear ready-to-wear clothes.
- If Uncle Willie didn't wear a fresh white shirt every day, Marguerite wouldn't have to seven white shirts.

4 Match the events in Marguerite's life with her feelings about them.

- Marguerite and Bailey receive Christmas presents from their parents living in California.
- Marguerite sees how handsome her father is.
- Marguerite's father tells her that he has to return to California.
- Marguerite realizes she will meet her mother.
- Marguerite sees her mother's beautiful face for the first time.
 - proud
 - relieved
 - afraid
 - abandoned
 - speechless

5 Fill in the missing letters to spell words found in Chapters 4 to 6.

a _ _ r t _ b w _ _ _ r c _ _ s t
 d _ _ r b _ _ d e _ a _ t y f b _ _ _ t _ f _ _
 g _ _ _ r c h h _ _ n o _ i p _ _ _ d
 j f _ _ _ y k _ _ n _ l y l t r _ _ _ e
 m h _ _ d _ _ e n _ _ w _ r o g _ _ b _ _ g
 p w _ _ s k _ _ q h _ r t r n _ _ g h _ _
 s p a _ n t t _ r _ _ _ e

Chapters 7–9

6 Who says the sentences a–h? Who are they talking to?

- "Now, Junior, be careful you don't tell a not true."
..... to
- "I had planned to invite you for cookies and lemonade so we could have this little chat."
..... to
- "She's a sweet little thing, though."
..... to

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- d "My name used to be Hallelujah."
..... to
- e "That clumsy nigger. Clumsy little black nigger."
..... to
- f "Go get your sweater, and bring me mine."
..... to
- g "You know it's night and you're just getting home?"
..... to
- h "Think you're getting too old, do you?"
..... to

7 Match the people with the descriptions.

- a Mrs. Flowers
- b Mrs. Cullinan
- c Miss Glory
- d Kay Francis
- e Louise
- f Tommy Valdon
- g Miss Williams
- 1) is a white movie star who looks like Marguerite's mother.
 - 2) lives in a three-bedroom house.
 - 3) sends Marguerite a valentine.
 - 4) has dark black skin.
 - 5) becomes Marguerite's friend.
 - 6) is Marguerite's teacher.
 - 7) has worked for Mrs. Cullinan for twenty years.

Chapters 10–12

8 Write the correct form of *graduate* in the sentences.

- a Large classes from both the elementary school and the high school are
- b The principal's wife will play the march.
- c The lower-grade walk to their seats below the platform.
- d Bailey the year before.
- e Marguerite is at the top of her class.
- f As a member of the class of 1940, Marguerite puts unpleasant feelings behind her.

9 What happens first? What happens next? Write the numbers, 1–8.

- a ☐ World War II starts for the Americans when they are attacked by the Japanese.

- b ☐ Momma goes back to Arkansas.
- c ☐ Mother Dear marries Daddy Clidell and they move to San Francisco.
- d ☐ Momma and Marguerite arrive in Los Angeles and meet Mother Dear.
- e ☐ Mother Dear drives Marguerite and Bailey to San Francisco.
- f ☐ Mother Dear, Grandmother Baxter, Bailey and Marguerite spend a few months in an apartment in Oakland.
- g ☐ Mother Dear returns to San Francisco to find a place for the family to live.
- h ☐ Bailey arrives in San Francisco.

Chapters 13–15

10 Match the letters (a–f) with the numbers (1–6) to make sentences from the story.

- a I believe that my talent with a foreign language was the only quality I had that impressed Dolores.
- b Signs informed me that we were heading for Ensenada.
- c People patted me on the back, shook Dad's hand, and spoke a rapid Spanish that I was unable to follow.
- d If Dolores knew, she would die.
- e I was extremely intelligent and had good physical skills.
- f And if I failed to hide the wound we were certain to experience another scene of violence.
- 1) Bailey was the hero of the hour, and as he responded to the open show of friendship I saw a new side of the man.
 - 2) I thought of poor Mr. Freeman, and the guilt which remained in my heart, even after all those years, returned.
 - 3) She couldn't attempt the strange sounds.
 - 4) The thought of that kept me happy for a long time.
 - 5) On that journey along the twisted roads beside the steep mountain, I feared that I would never get back to America, civilization, English, and wide streets again.
 - 6) Of course I could drive.

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Chapters 1–3

1 Write the right words in the sentences.

- black cautiously curls marriage next
night purple whites
- Marguerite wears a light dress.
 - Her parents' is disastrous.
 - The town regards Marguerite
 - Uncle Willie cries the whole
 - Mr. McElroy lives to the Store.
 - Bailey is praised for his dark skin.
 - Bailey's hair fell down in black
 - Marguerite knows that are different.

Chapters 4–6

2 Write the right words in the sentences.

- burden feel frighten kill mouth powder
scared ungrateful
- "Here's sugar, Miss Potter, and here's baking"
 - "They only me if you're around. Alone, I know how to handle them."
 - "No, you can't do it. Your ain't pushed out enough."
 - "Glory, glory, praise the Lord, when I lay my down."
 - "Your children are the most things I ever saw."
 - "How are you going to seeing your mother?"
 - "Now, I didn't hurt you. Don't get"
 - "And if you tell, I'm gonna Bailey."

Chapters 7–9

3 Who are the people in *italics*? Underline your choices.

- We were on the train going back to Stamps, and this time I had to comfort Bailey. *Marguerite and Bailey / Marguerite and Momma*
- Their decision to be satisfied with life's unfairness was a lesson for me. *people living in Stamps / people living in St. Louis*
- Then he would quickly send me on some errand that would take me out of his presence. *Bailey / Uncle Willie*
- So I was understood, if not forgiven. *Bailey / Marguerite*
- She had the grace to appear warm in the coldest weather, and on the hot Arkansas summer days she seemed cool. *Mother / Mrs. Flowers*

Chapters 10–12

4 Match the sentences (a–f) with the people who say them (1–6).

- "One of the best basketball players at Fisk University sank his first ball right here at Lafayette County Training School."
 - "They don't really hate us. They don't know us."
 - "The white man called me to come and help too."
 - "Who was it? Who was the white man?"
 - "Ritie. Ritie. Come, but be very quiet."
 - "I am certain that all of you have read the article."
- Uncle Willie
 - Mr. Donleavy
 - Mother
 - Momma
 - Bailey
 - Miss Kirwin

Chapters 13–15

5 Match the letters (a–h) with the numbers (1–8) to complete the sentences.

- Daddy Bailey invites Marguerite to spend the summer with him
 - Daddy Bailey has a girlfriend,
 - Delores lives with Daddy Bailey in a small house
 - Delores tries hard to make Marguerite into something
 - Daddy Bailey is amused and seems to enjoy Marguerite's
 - In San Francisco, Bailey made new friends and his language
 - Marguerite goes into Bailey's room and finds him
 - Marguerite doesn't expect to interest either brother
- she can reasonably accept.
 - changed.
 - in southern California.
 - discomfort.
 - throwing his clothes into a pillowcase.
 - permanently.
 - on the outskirts of town.
 - who began writing letters to Marguerite some months before.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Book key

1–3 Open answers

4 a song

b disrespect

c shame

d rude

e curly

f developed

g intolerance

h divided

i term

5 Open answers

6 a Uncle Willie

b “the used-to-be sheriff” (the ex-sheriff)

c Mr. McElroy

d Bailey

7 Open answers

8 a True

b True

c False

d True

e True

f False

g False

h True

i False

j True

9 Possible answer: Because of the large numbers of unskilled black workers.

10 a cleanliness

b imitate

c speak

d black

e dead

f doorman

g astonished

h bigger

i brother

11 a 6 b 8 c 1 d 3 e 9 f 4 g 10 h 7
i 5 j 2

12 Open answers

13 Open answers

14 a Mother to Maya and Bailey.

b Mr. Freeman to Maya.

c Mr. Freeman’s lawyer to Maya.

d Maya to Mr. Freeman.

e A policeman to Grandmother Baxter.

f Grandmother Baxter to the policeman.

g Momma to Bailey.

h Bailey to people in the Store.

15 Possible answer: She was lonely and needed affection: “I was hurt for a time and felt lonelier than ever,”

16 Open answers

17 Open answers

a Mrs. Cullinan

b Mrs. Flowers

c Mrs. Cullinan

d Mrs. Flowers

e Mrs. Flowers

f Mrs. Cullinan

g Mrs. Flowers

18 a Momma

b Mrs. Flowers

c Miss Glory

d Mrs. Cullinan

e Maya

f Kay Francis

g Louise

h Miss Williams

19 a False

b False

c False

d False

e False

f True

g False

h True

i True

j False

20 Open answers

21 Open answers (They worried about being bombed by the Japanese. Japanese Americans were taken away and put in prison camps because America was at war with Japan.)

22 a irrelevant > important/exciting

b science > sport

c qualified > elected

d ashamed > proud/better

e tired > frightened/scared/afraid

f all > part/some

g meal > party

h shot > bombed

23–25 Open answers

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

26 a 2 b 1 c 5 d 3 e 4

27 a Yes

b Yes

c No

d No

e Yes

f No

g No

h Yes

28–29 Open answers

30 a Bailey

b the receptionist

c the conductor

d Mother

e Maya

31–41 Open answers

Discussion activities key

I Students should point out that the woman is black and that she is wearing traditional African clothing and jewelry. They should also notice that she is holding an African cane with an elephant carved into it. They should point out that she is looking off to the side in a very proud and dignified way. They should guess that the woman is Maya Angelou because she is the author of the book and the book is autobiographical. They should guess that she is very confident and proud because of her appearance and posture.

2–7 Open answers

8 a 6 b 8 c 5 d 7 e 2 f 3 g 4 h 1

i 10 j 11 k 9 l 12

9–17 Open answers

18 a comfort

b lonely

c family

d relax

e city

f dark

g kind

h proud

i color

j neat

k dress

l voice

m dream

n pity

o lie

p friend

q prayer

r train

s love

t hateful

19–31 Open answers

32 a 9 b 1 c 5 d 2 e 8 f 7 g 3 h 10

i 12 j 6 k 4 l 11

33 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

1 a 5 b 1 c 4 d 7 e 6 f 3 g 8 h 2

2 a F b F c T d T e F

3 a stick

b won

c Mrs.

d land

e iron

4 a 4 b 1 c 2 d 3 e 5

5 a dirty

b winter

c dust

d cornbread

e nasty

f beautiful

g church

h honor

i proud

j family

k lonely

l trouble

m handsome

n power

o gambling

p whiskey

q hurt

r naughty

s pain

t terrible

6 a Momma to Bailey

b Mrs. Flowers to Marguerite

c Mrs. Cullinan to her friends.

d Glory to Marguerite

e Mrs. Cullinan to Glory

f Momma to Marguerite

g Momma to Bailey

h Uncle Willie to Bailey

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

7 a 4 b 2 c 7 d 1 e 5 f 3 g 6

8 a graduating

b graduation

c graduates

d graduated

e graduating

f graduating

9 a 7 b 4 c 8 d 1 e 5 f 6 g 2 h 3

10 a 3 b 5 c 1 d 4 e 6 f 2

Progress test key

1 a purple

b marriage

c cautiously

d night

e next

f black

g curls

h whites

2 a powder

b frighten

c mouth

d burden

e ungrateful

f feel

g scared

h kill

3 a Marguerite and Bailey

b people living in Stamps

c Uncle Willie

d Marguerite

e Mrs. Flowers

4 a 2 b 1 c 5 d 4 e 3 f 6

5 a 3 b 8 c 7 d 1 e 4 f 2 g 5 h 6

ISBN	Reader Title	Author	Language	Word Count	Headwords	Pages	Blurbs
Pearson English Readers Level 6							
9781405882705	The Runaway Jury (Book)	John Grisham	American English	27313	3,000	120	Pynex, a tobacco company, could lose hundreds of millions of dollars in a big court case. The jury is being watched. One of the jurors is working with a mysterious woman outside the court. Both sides will do anything to win.
9781408274392	The Runaway Jury (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	John Grisham	American English	27313	3,000	120	Pynex, a tobacco company, could lose hundreds of millions of dollars in a big court case. The jury is being watched. One of the jurors is working with a mysterious woman outside the court. Both sides will do anything to win.
9781405882736	Snow Falling On Cedars	David Guterson	British English	35501	3000	128	It is 1954 and Kabuo Miyamoto is on trial for murder. He is a Japanese American living on the island of San Piedro, off the north-west coast of America. The Second World War has left an atmosphere of anger and suspicion in this small community. Will Kabuo receive a fair trial? And will the true cause of the victim's death be discovered?
9781405865296	Anna Karenina (Book)	Leo Tolstoy	British English	32959	3000	120	Anna Karenina, one of world literature's greatest novels, tells the story of a beautiful young woman who is unhappily married to a man much older than herself. When she falls in love with a handsome young soldier, life suddenly seems wonderful. But real happiness is not so easily found...
9781408274187	Anna Karenina (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Leo Tolstoy	British English	32959	3,000	120	Anna Karenina, one of world literature's greatest novels, tells the story of a beautiful young woman who is unhappily married to a man much older than herself. When she falls in love with a handsome young soldier, life suddenly seems wonderful. But real happiness is not so easily found...
9781405882583	Brave New World	Aldous Huxley	British English	35240	3000	136	Aldous Huxley's Brave New World is one of the great works of science fiction. It is the year After Ford 632 in the New World. People are born and live by scientific methods. There is worldwide happiness and order. Then John comes from the Savage Reservation to the New World and with him he brings strong emotions - love, hate, anger, fear. Suddenly, danger threatens the New World.
9781405882606	Captain Corelli's Mandolin (Book)	Louis de Bernieres	British English	33222	3,000	120	The Italian officer, Captain Corelli, falls in love with Pelagia. But Pelagia's fiance is fighting the Italian army. This is a great love story set in the tragedy of war.
9781408274361	Captain Corelli's Mandolin (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Louis de Bernieres	British English	33222	3,000	120	The Italian officer, Captain Corelli, falls in love with Pelagia. But Pelagia's fiance is fighting the Italian army. This is a great love story set in the tragedy of war.
9781405882620	Crime and Punishment	Fyodor Dostoevsky	British English	32748	3000	120	Raskolnikoff is a poor and lonely a young student. He plans to murder a greedy old moneylender, but this crime is just the beginning of the story.
9781408274385	Crime and Punishment (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Fyodor Dostoevsky	British English	32748	3000	120	Raskolnikoff is a poor and lonely a young student. He plans to murder a greedy old moneylender, but this crime is just the beginning of the story.
9781405865265	East of Eden (Book)	John Steinbeck	American English	30902	3000	120	East of Eden is John Steinbeck's epic novel about two families set against the backdrop of the Salinas Valley at the turn of the twentieth century. East of Eden is a story of love and jealousy, forgiveness and revenge, and good and evil, that was adapted into the classic 1955 film starring James Dean.
9781408274224	East of Eden (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	John Steinbeck	American English	30902	3000	120	East of Eden is John Steinbeck's epic novel about two families set against the backdrop of the Salinas Valley at the turn of the twentieth century. East of Eden is a story of love and jealousy, forgiveness and revenge, and good and evil, that was adapted into the classic 1955 film starring James Dean.
9781405865289	Great Expectations (Book)	Charles Dickens	British English	35437	3000	128	Pip is a poor orphan whose life is changed forever by two very different meetings - one with an escaped convict and the other with an eccentric old lady and the beautiful girl who lives with her. And who is the mysterious person who leaves him a fortune?
9781408274231	Great Expectations (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Charles Dickens	British English	35437	3000	128	Pip is a poor orphan whose life is changed forever by two very different meetings - one with an escaped convict and the other with an eccentric old lady and the beautiful girl who lives with her. And who is the mysterious person who leaves him a fortune?
9781405882651	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (Book)	Maya Angelou (retold by Jacqueline Kehl)	American English	33,055	3,000	120	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings recounts the trials and tribulations of Maya Angelou's life growing up as an impoverished black woman in the southern United States. Its story reveals the prejudice, poverty, and hardship suffered during that time, but also the importance of love, hope and dignity.
9781408274248	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Maya Angelou (retold by Jacqueline Kehl)	American English	33,055	3,000	120	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings recounts the trials and tribulations of Maya Angelou's life growing up as an impoverished black woman in the southern United States. Its story reveals the prejudice, poverty, and hardship suffered during that time, but also the importance of love, hope and dignity.
9781405865272	Les Miserables (Book)	Victor Hugo	British English	30142	3000	120	After spending nineteen years in prison for stealing a loaf of bread, Jean Valjean is at last a free man. But he is a cold, tired, hungry man with no money and not a friend in the world. But then something happens that will change his life forever. As a result, he spends the rest of his life helping the victims of poverty and social injustice: 'les miserables.'
9781408274255	Les Miserables (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Victor Hugo	British English	30142	3000	120	After spending nineteen years in prison for stealing a loaf of bread, Jean Valjean is at last a free man. But he is a cold, tired, hungry man with no money and not a friend in the world. But then something happens that will change his life forever. As a result, he spends the rest of his life helping the victims of poverty and social injustice: 'les miserables.'

9781405865319	Madame Bovary (Book)	Gustave Flaubert	British English	32593	3,000	120	Emma Bovary lives in a romantic dream world, filled with mental images taken from youthful reading of romantic novels. As Emma grows more and more dissatisfied with her husband and their way of life, she longs for a more glamorous, romantic life. And one of literature's great tragedies begins to unfold.
9781408274262	Madame Bovary (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Gustave Flaubert	British English	32593	3,000	120	Emma Bovary lives in a romantic dream world, filled with mental images taken from youthful reading of romantic novels. As Emma grows more and more dissatisfied with her husband and their way of life, she longs for a more glamorous, romantic life. And one of literature's great tragedies begins to unfold.
9781405882668	Man from the South and Other Stories (Book)	Roald Dahl	British English	31438	3000	120	Roald Dahl is the master of the unexpected. Things are not always what they seem and nobody should be trusted. In this collection of his short stories we learn some strange lessons about the dangerous world we live in. But you will have to wait until the final pages of each story to discover the last, terrible twist!
9781408274293	Man from the South and Other Stories (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Roald Dahl	British English	31438	3000	120	Roald Dahl is the master of the unexpected. Things are not always what they seem and nobody should be trusted. In this collection of his short stories we learn some strange lessons about the dangerous world we live in. But you will have to wait until the final pages of each story to discover the last, terrible twist!
9781405882675	Memoirs of a Geisha (Book)	Arthur Golden	American English	31483	3000	120	We follow Sayuri's life from her early years in a small fishing village to her life as a geisha in Gion. What struggles does she face? Who does she love?
9781405876650	Misery (Book)	Stephen King	British English	27217	3,000	112	Paul Sheldon is a world famous novelist. On his way to deliver his latest book, he has an accident on a snow-covered road. Paul wakes up in pain, but in a bed on a nearby farm. The woman who saved him, Annie Wilkes, is one of his biggest fans. But when Annie reads his latest book about her favorite character, Misery, Paul know he's in trouble.
9781405867818	North and South (Book)	Elizabeth Gaskell	British English	32755	3,000	120	Life changes completely for Margaret Hale when she moves to a smokey northern city. There, Margaret meets Mr. Thornton and dislikes him immediately. But Mr. Thornton falls in love with Margaret.
9781408274309	North and South (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Elizabeth Gaskell	British English	32755	3,000	120	Life changes completely for Margaret Hale when she moves to a smokey northern city. There, Margaret meets Mr. Thornton and dislikes him immediately. But Mr. Thornton falls in love with Margaret.
9781408221105	Northanger Abbey (Book)	Jane Austen	British English	32059	3,000	120	On a visit to the fashionable city of Bath, 17-year old Catherine Morland looks for the excitement she finds in romantic fiction. She makes friends and falls in love. But when she is invited to Northanger Abbey, she also experiences desperate unhappiness. What is real, and what is the product of her wild imagination?
9781408232149	Northanger Abbey (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Jane Austen	British English	32059	3,000	120	On a visit to the fashionable city of Bath, 17-year old Catherine Morland looks for the excitement she finds in romantic fiction. She makes friends and falls in love. But when she is invited to Northanger Abbey, she also experiences desperate unhappiness. What is real, and what is the product of her wild imagination?
9781405865258	Oliver Twist (Book)	Charles Dickens	British English	35613	3,000	136	His mother is dead, so little Oliver Twist is brought up in the workhouse. Beaten and starved, he runs away to London, where he joins Fagin's gang of thieves. By chance he also finds good new friends - but can they protect him from people who rob and murder without mercy?
9781408274286	Oliver Twist (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Charles Dickens	British English	35613	3000	136	His mother is dead, so little Oliver Twist is brought up in the workhouse. Beaten and starved, he runs away to London, where he joins Fagin's gang of thieves. By chance he also finds good new friends - but can they protect him from people who rob and murder without mercy?
9781405882712	Saving Private Ryan (Book)	Max Allan Collins	American English	26903	3,000	120	Set in Europe during World War II, Saving Private Ryan follows Captain Miller and his soldiers as fight to find Private Ryan, the last surviving brother of three killed soldiers. This story is based on the screenplay for the 1998 award-winning movie by Steven Spielberg that featured Tom Hanks.
9781408274415	Saving Private Ryan (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Max Allan Collins	American English	26903	3,000	120	Set in Europe during World War II, Saving Private Ryan follows Captain Miller and his soldiers as fight to find Private Ryan, the last surviving brother of three killed soldiers. This story is based on the screenplay for the 1998 award-winning movie by Steven Spielberg that featured Tom Hanks.
9781405882576	The Beach (Book)	Alex Garland	British English	27944	3,000	112	Richard arrives in Thailand. He hears about 'the Beach' on a secret island. It sounds like paradise on earth. But this heaven on earth is not what it seems.
9781408274194	The Beach (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Alex Garland	British English	27944	3,000	112	Richard arrives in Thailand. He hears about 'the Beach' on a secret island. It sounds like paradise on earth. But this heaven on earth is not what it seems.
9781408263884	The Bourne Ultimatum (Book)	Robert Ludlum	American English	29851	3,000	116	Carlos the Jackal is back! He is getting older and he wants the blood of his enemy, Jason Bourne, while he still has his assassin's skills. Bourne has no choice. To protect his family and himself, he must leave his quiet academic life and hunt the hunter. Will this be a battle to the death?
9781408263952	The Bourne Ultimatum (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Robert Ludlum	American English	29851	3,000	116	Carlos the Jackal is back! He is getting older and he wants the blood of his enemy, Jason Bourne, while he still has his assassin's skills. Bourne has no choice. To protect his family and himself, he must leave his quiet academic life and hunt the hunter. Will this be a battle to the death?
9781405882613	The Chamber (Book)	John Grisham	American English	29239	3,000	120	Seventy-year old Sam Cayhall has been on death row for more than twenty years. Then a young lawyer named Adam Hall appears on the scene and declares his mission to save him. Can Adam save Sam from execution? And what does he discover about Sam's past?
9781408274378	The Chamber (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	John Grisham	American English	29239	3,000	120	Seventy-year old Sam Cayhall has been on death row for more than twenty years. Then a young lawyer named Adam Hall appears on the scene and declares his mission to save him. Can Adam save Sam from execution? And what does he discover about Sam's past?
9781408221143	The King of Torts (Book)	John Grisham	American English	29872	3,000	116	Clay Carter has worked in the Office of the Public Defender for years for low pay when he defends another murderer. But the murderers are not what they seem. Soon Clay has the opportunity to make money and a reputation as he battles with large pharmaceutical companies. Will he become the King of Torts?

9781408232132	The King of Torts (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	John Grisham	American English	29872	3,000	116	Clay Carter has worked in the Office of the Public Defender for years for low pay when he defends another murderer. But the murderers are not what they seem. Soon Clay has the opportunity to make money and a reputation as he battles with large pharmaceutical companies. Will he become the King of Torts?
9781405882682	The Moonstone (Book)	Wilkie Collins	British English	29704	3,000	128	The Moonstone is an ancient Indian diamond which brings disaster to everyone who owns it. Rachel Verinder's uncle gives her the diamond as a birthday present, but that same night it is stolen... The Moonstone is now seen as the first, and one of the best, English detective novels.
9781408274279	The Moonstone (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Wilkie Collins	British English	29704	3,000	128	The Moonstone is an ancient Indian diamond which brings disaster to everyone who owns it. Rachel Verinder's uncle gives her the diamond as a birthday present, but that same night it is stolen... The Moonstone is now seen as the first, and one of the best, English detective novels.
9781405882743	The Testament (Book)	John Grisham	American English	27868	3,000	120	Nate O'Riley is a powerful Washington lawyer. Returning to work after a long stay in hospital is difficult for Nate. Then he is sent on a journey that takes him from the tense courtrooms of Washington to the dangerous swamps of Brazil. It is a journey that will change his life forever...
9781405882767	The Woman in White (Book)	Wilkie Collins	British English	25937	3000	112	Only the Woman in White knows the truth of Laura Fairlie's cruel husband. Can Walter Hartwright discover the terrible secret? From the moment Walter meets this mysterious woman, his future and that of Laura are linked forever.
9781408274408	The Woman in White (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Wilkie Collins	British English	25937	3000	112	Only the Woman in White knows the truth of Laura Fairlie's cruel husband. Can Walter Hartwright discover the terrible secret? From the moment Walter meets this mysterious woman, his future and that of Laura are linked forever.
9781292231280	Animal Farm (Book) - Full Text	George Orwell	British English	30113	3000	144	All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others. When the animals take over the farm, they think it is the start of a better life. Their dream is of a world where all animals are equal and all property is shared. But soon the pigs take control and one of them, Napoleon, becomes leader of all the animals. One by one, the principles of the revolution are abandoned, until the animals have even less freedom than before. Animal Farm is one of the classic stories of modern English fiction, and is a powerful study of the use and abuse of political power.
9781292243221	Animal Farm (Book with Audio CD) - Full Text	George Orwell	British English	30113	3000	144	All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others. When the animals take over the farm, they think it is the start of a better life. Their dream is of a world where all animals are equal and all property is shared. But soon the pigs take control and one of them, Napoleon, becomes leader of all the animals. One by one, the principles of the revolution are abandoned, until the animals have even less freedom than before. Animal Farm is one of the classic stories of modern English fiction, and is a powerful study of the use and abuse of political power.
9781292140537	Snow Falling on Cedars (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	David Guterson	British English	35501		128	It is 1954 and Kabuo Miyamoto is on trial for murder. He is a Japanese American living on the island of San Piedro, off the north-west coast of America. The Second World War has left an atmosphere of anger and suspicion in this small community. Will Kabuo receive a fair trial? And will the true cause of the victim's death be discovered?
9781292293110	Misery (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Stephen King	British English	27217	3,000	112	Paul Sheldon is a world famous novelist. On his way to deliver his latest book, he has an accident on a snow-covered road. Paul wakes up in pain, but in a bed on a nearby farm. The woman who saved him, Annie Wilkes, is one of his biggest fans. But when Annie reads his latest book about her favorite character, Misery, Paul know he's in trouble.