

Bernadette Tan

Mrs. Alders

English I Pre-AP

24 August 2018

MOSTT for Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

**“M” Making a Character List:**

1. Marguerite Johnson: Marguerite Johnson aka Ritie and Maya has a quiet personality and loves to read books. The most important thing in her life is her brother Bailey and they are best friends. She is very smart and excels in schooling.
2. Bailey Johnson: Bailey is Marguerite's older brother by one year. Bailey is more outgoing and the jewel of the family. He is a smooth talker and seems to get away with everything.
3. Annie Henderson: Also known as Momma to Bailey and Marguerite, Annie is actually their grandmother. She lives in Arkansas and runs a well-known shop where they sell all kinds of goods. She is very loving and also very religious and God-fearing.

**“O” Organize the Plot with Two Sentence Chapter Summaries:**

1. Marguerite and her brother Bailey get sent to live with their grandmother after their parents' divorce. They lived in Arkansas in the back of grandma's shop.
2. Uncle Willie lives with them along with their grandmother. A couple visits the store and Uncle Willie tries to act not crippled.
3. Marguerite talks about her love of pineapples. Momma, Marguerite, and Bailey have to hide Uncle Willie because the Klan was coming.

4. Marguerite loves her brother Bailey so much. She still struggles with understanding the ways of white people.
5. The powhite girls are rude to Momma and Uncle Willie by order them like slaves around their own store.
6. Reverend Thomas came and ate dinner with the family. Mrs. Monroe is a crazy lady who attacks the Reverend during the sermon.
7. Momma's been married three times before. In the past, Momma has had to go to the court for hiding a negro man.
8. Bailey and Marguerite found out that their own mom and dad were still alive. Their parents sent them Christmas gifts.
9. Bailey and Maya's father decide to take them to ST. Louis to see their mother. Bailey falls in love with his mother at first sight and becomes obsessed with her by calling her "Mother Dear."
10. The children met their mother's family and enrolled in school. Maya's favorite uncle is uncle Tommy.
11. Mother has a boyfriend named Mr. Freeman. He does inappropriate things but Marguerite doesn't understand.
12. Ritie is taken advantage of but Mr. Freeman threatens to kill Bailey if she tells anyone.
13. Ritie was sent to the hospital and Mr. Freeman was arrested. They found him dead after the trial was over.
14. The children return back to the Stamps to Momma and Uncle Willie. Bailey is sad about leaving and turns to sarcasm.

15. Mrs. Flowers has taken an interest in Marguerite and gives her books to read. Marguerite finally begins to talk after her horrible experiences.
16. In her tenth year, Marguerite worked in the kitchen of a white woman named Mrs. Cullinan. But she was fired after purposely dropping Mrs. Cullinan's china.
17. Bailey came home late one night and made Momma worry. He and Marguerite went to the movies to see an actress that looked like their mother.
18. Every year all the different church congregations come together for the annual revival. They praise Jesus and sing songs.
19. The whole town crowded Momma's store around the radio listening to a boxing match. Louis the black fighter won.
20. Marguerite got her very first Valentine from Tommy Valdon. She is afraid so she tears it up with her new friend Louise.
21. Bailey meets an older girl named Joyce and becomes romantically involved with her. She leaves the Stamps for Dallas shortly though.
22. Mr. Taylor visited Momma on a dark night. He talked about his deceased wife and hearing her voice.
23. It's graduation day and Marguerite is graduating from the 8th grade. But the speaker reminded them how hard it is to be black.
24. Maya got a horrible toothache because of two cavities. The dentist refused to see her because she was black, but in the end Maya got the cavities out thanks to Momma.
25. Bailey realizes the prejudice and unfairness of being black by seeing a dead, black man's body found in the river. Momma sends them back to their parents in California.

26. Maya and Bailey moved with their mother to San Francisco while the rest of the family stayed behind. In the past, Mother shot a man to protect herself but didn't kill him.
27. World War II broke out. Maya talks about life during that time and dealing with it.
28. Maya is now at a high school that is racially mixed. She gets accepted to a college, California Labor School, at a young age.
29. Maya talks about the difference in the language of black and white people. She hears stories about other people's lives.
30. Maya went to Dad's for a vacation and met his girlfriend named Dolores. Marguerite and dad end up going to Mexico but got in a car crash while Maya was trying to drive her inebriated father back home.
31. Maya got in a fight with Dolores and got cut and was bleeding. She decided to run away.
32. Maya met a group of kids who were orphans and lived with them on money that they earned. She leaves and goes back home to Mother.
33. Bailey is becoming more rebellious and is defying Mother Dear. He runs away at sixteen.
34. Maya got a job as a street car conductor. She faced prejudice and unfairness.
35. Marguerite discovers that she is with child.
36. Maya ends up hiding her pregnancy for a while and graduates from school. Bailey came home and Maya gave birth to a baby boy at the age of fifteen.

**“S” Stick Five Tabs at Engaging Parts of the Book:**

1. **Pg 133-** The author does such a good job of creating a tense atmosphere. She uses certain words to help her do this.
2. **Pg 180-** This part was very engaging because one speaker was able to bring down the whole graduation. All the black teachers, parents, and graduates realize that no matter how smart they are, their skin color will classify them as maids and farmers.

3. **Pg 218-** In this part of the story, Marguerite grows stronger as a character. She is able to identify the people who have formed her into the person that she is. Not a lot of young teenagers could even do that. Marguerite proves that she is not only tough but wise.
4. **Pgs 268-270-** This part was really engaging because Marguerite really displays her determination. No matter how many times she was turned down to be a conductor because of her skin color, she persisted. She went back everyday. It shows how much Marguerite has grown. She was no longer the quiet, fragile girl.
5. **Pg 280-** Here it is very interesting to hear about Marguerite's worries as she is struggling with her identity. She tries to prove herself by getting a boyfriend (which, of course, doesn't work.)

#### **“T” Ten Unfamiliar Vocabulary Words:**

1. **Ingenuity-** the quality of being cleverly inventive or resourceful; inventiveness. “[...] table but by ingenuity and courage [...]” (Angelou 224).
2. **Embezzle-** to appropriate fraudulently to one's own use, as money or property entrusted to one's care. “[...] more banks embezzle more funds and employ graft in the unions” (Angelou 225).
3. **Colloquial-** characteristic of or appropriate to ordinary or familiar conversation rather than formal speech or writing; informal. “We were alert to the gap separating the written word from the colloquial” (Angelou 225).
4. **Liveried-** clad in liver, as servants. “[...] and serviced by a liveried staff” (Angelou 226).
5. **Convolutd-** to coil up; form into a twisted shape. “[...] words and convoluted sentences [...]” (Angelou 227).
6. **Fidelity-** strict observance of promises, duties, etc. “[...] on absolute fidelity [...]” (Angelou 227).
7. **Rife-** of common or frequent occurrence; prevalent; in widespread existence, activity, or use. “[...] were rife in her town [...]” (Angelou 229).
8. **Ramshackle-** loosely made or held together; rickety; shaky. “[...] the ramshackle building [...]” (Angelou 232).
9. **Claque-** a group of persons hired to applaud an act or performer. “[...] suddenly a claque of women [...]” (Angelou 232).
10. **Reveler-** a group of persons hired to applaud an act or performer. “[...] As new revelers joined [...]” (Angelou 234).

#### **“T” Themes:**

1. No matter how many times your dreams are shot down, try and try again and never give up.
2. No matter what your skin color is, you can overcome your circumstances and achieve anything.