

Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou was a Black writer. She is celebrated for her poetry. Many of Angelou's poems are reflections on her personal history. Her writing explores themes of oppression.

One of Angelou's most famous poems is called "Still I Rise." Read a few lines from the poem below:

You may write me down in history

With your bitter, twisted lies,

You may trod me in the very dirt

But still, like dust, I'll rise.

...

Out of the huts of history's shame

I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain

I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,

Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

oppression:
wrongful or unfair
treatment by a group
with power or authority



Write down some feelings you had as you read "Still I Rise."

A large, empty yellow rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for writing feelings.

Below, write a short poem that explores your own feelings about something that has happened to you. Your poem can rhyme, but it doesn't have to.

A large, empty yellow rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for writing a poem.