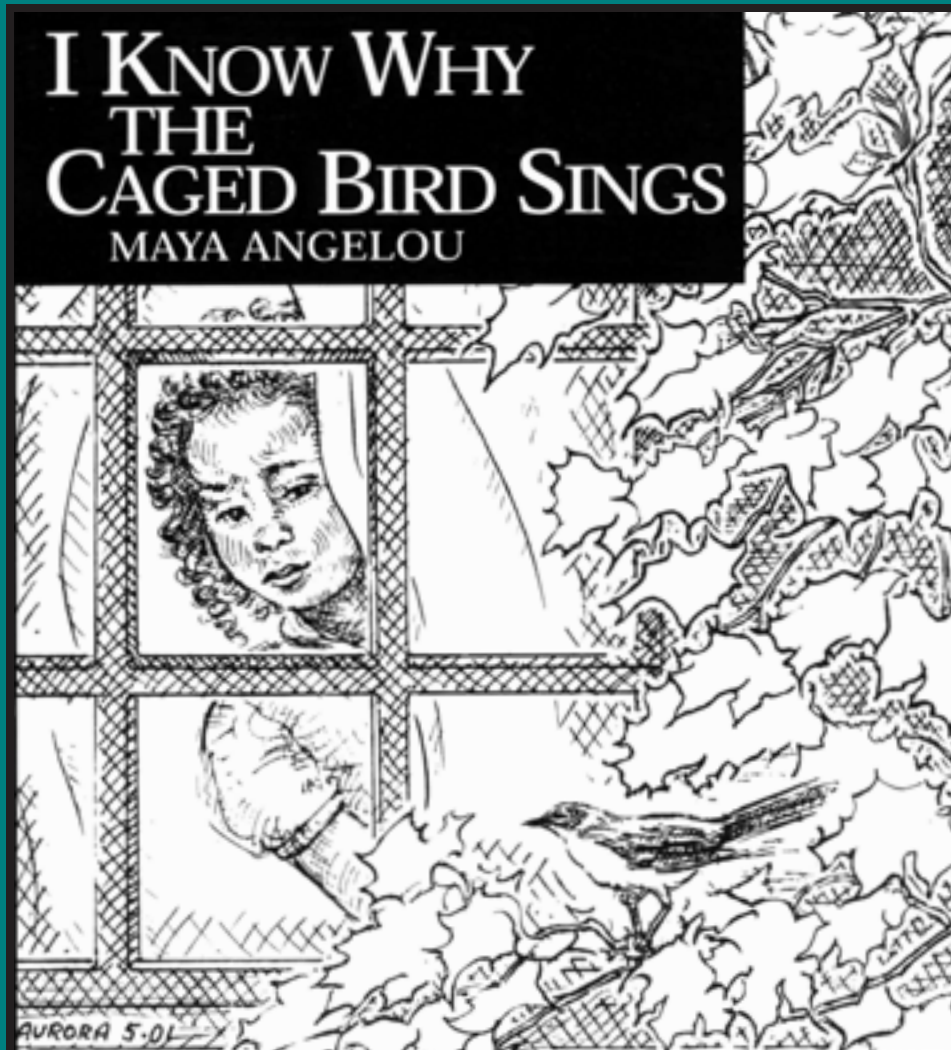


# Novel·Ties



## A Study Guide

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**LEARNING LINKS**

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## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of instructional material to use in conjunction with a specific novel. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

NOVEL-TIES are either for whole class instruction using a single title or for group instruction where each group uses a different novel appropriate to its reading level. Depending upon the amount of time allotted to it in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in two to four weeks.

The first step in using NOVEL-TIES is to distribute to each student a copy of the novel and a folder containing all of the duplicated worksheets. Begin instruction by selecting several pre-reading activities in order to set the stage for the reading ahead. Vocabulary exercises for each chapter always precede the reading so that new words will be reinforced in the context of the book. Use the questions on the chapter worksheets for class discussion or as written exercises.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

## Author Information

Born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 4, 1928, Maya Angelou grew up to become a figure of national renown. She is a writer, dancer, actress, director, and civil rights activist who has recorded her experiences in poetry, fiction, autobiography, plays, and songs. Ms. Angelou's work speaks to a wide audience. Critics have recognized her talent with nominations for such honors as the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. She was the first Black woman to direct Hollywood films, as well as to star in them. In 1971, the movie *Georgia* featured her original screenplay and musical score. She also wrote and produced a television miniseries, "Three Way Choice." Her work as an actress in *Look Away* (1973) and *Roots* (1977) won her nominations for Tony awards, while the documentary she produced, "Afro-Americans in the Arts," received a Golden Eagle Award.

Maya Angelou has been a political presence since she joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the 1960s at the invitation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In that decade, she also lived in Cairo, Egypt, where she edited *The Arab Observer*. She married a South African freedom fighter. Ms. Angelou also lived in Ghana, where she served as feature editor of the *African Review*. Returning to the United States in 1974, she served on Gerald Ford's Bicentennial Commission and on Jimmy Carter's Commission for International Woman of the Year. When Bill Clinton was inaugurated, she was invited to deliver her poem, "On the Pulse of the Morning."

Maya Angelou's life story is best told in her own words, through her vivid autobiographical novels. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* concerns her early childhood and teen years, when she faced racism, suffered rape and psychological trauma, and became the mother of her son, Guy, at age sixteen. Her subsequent books and poems, many of which became bestsellers, fill in the record of her remarkable and productive life. Since 1981, Maya Angelou has held the Reynolds Professorship of American Studies at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She lectures frequently throughout the United States and the world.

**PROLOGUE–CHAPTER 5**

**Vocabulary:** Use the context to determine the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Then use a dictionary to find the exact meaning of the word.

1. My grandfather worked hard to sustain his large family.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

2. The weather reporter prophesied a winter of raging storms and freezing temperatures.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

3. The students felt constrained to study hard because the exam was supposed to be difficult.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

4. The cook prepared his delicious concoctions for the hungry customers.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

5. It would be an anachronism to put an automobile in a painting that shows life in the eighteenth century.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

6. The hostility of the crowd frightened the politician, who ended his speech quickly and fled.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

7. After the impudent child insulted the teacher, he was sent to the principal's office.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

8. Because of segregation laws in the South, Blacks were not allowed to sit in the front seats of a public bus.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_