

Year 8 English Unit 3: Single Poet Study: Maya Angelou

Single Poet Study: Maya Angelou	
Expected Outcomes - Learners will identify that figurative language, repetition and an assertive tone are three ways Angelou creates a distinctive voice in her work. - Learners will write their own poem inspired by Maya Angelou's 'Life Doesn't Frighten Me'. - Learners will write about themselves in figurative language, using what they have learnt from exploring 'Phenomenal Woman'. - Learners will perform a poem of their choice and develop their performance and presentation skills. - Learners will comment on Maya Angelou's poetic voice by comparing at least two of her poems.	
Developmental Focus Opportunities - Reading aloud – This unit lends itself to reading the poems aloud, enabling learners to improve and refine their fluency and prosody. - Presentation skills – Learners have the opportunity to develop their body language, eye contact, pace, volume and tone. - Articulating opinions and UTW – Learners should be encouraged to share their personal responses to Maya Angelou's role as a civil rights activist.	
Key Learning Points	Powerful Knowledge
- I can explain how Maya Angelou has a distinctive voice. - I can write my own poem inspired by Maya Angelou's 'Life Doesn't Frighten Me'. - I can explore Angelou's use of figurative language in 'Phenomenal Woman' and use this exploration to write about myself using figurative language. - I can consider different aspects of performance and apply them to a performance of my own. - I can comment on Maya Angelou's poetic voice, referencing a number of her poems to support my ideas.	Learners will understand that Maya Angelou (1928-2014) was an American poet and civil rights activist who has a distinctive poetic voice. They will understand her style and what figurative language is and how it can be used for effect. Learners will understand the key aspects of an effective performance / presentation and the importance of this as a life skill. Learners will understand that poems can be analysed as a collective.
Subject-Specific Vocabulary	Reading Opportunities
Assertive tone Figurative language Repetition Civil rights activist Methods	'Life Doesn't Frighten Me' by Maya Angelou (on Teams) 'Phenomenal Woman' by Maya Angelou (on Teams) 'Woman Work' by Maya Angelou (on Teams) 'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou (on Teams) 'Caged Bird' by Maya Angelou (on Teams)

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Monosyllable Refrain Intangible Structure Literal Tone Pace Volume Body language Eye contact Lyrical	'On Aging' by Maya Angelou (on Teams) 'Equality' by Maya Angelou (on Teams) 'On the Pulse of Morning' by Maya Angelou (on Teams)
Possible Misconceptions	Cross-Curricular Links
- 'Life Doesn't Frighten Me' is saying that life isn't scary. The poem lists many scary and frightening things. It presents some of the world's dangers. The speaker, however, is not frightened of life despite these dangers. - Angelou's poem is unstructured because the stanzas are uneven and she talks about lots of different things. - Performing poetry is just about reading it aloud clearly. - You shouldn't talk about poems as a group. This will make your comments too general.	History – civil rights PSHE – equal rights