



Maya Angelou

I chose Maya Angelou as my hero because she inspires me to be as many things as I can be. For instance, she was a poet, dancer, writer, actor, director, singer, journalist, and activist.

I also picked Maya Angelou because even when she was old she still did things like write poetry and books. She also spoke on tv.

As a young black girl, Maya Angelou is inspiring to me because she spoke out on equal rights and expressed her obstacles and achievements in her writing to convince people that when you have a rough start in life you can overcome it.

Later in my life, I want to be a writer, and seeing her writing has made me think that I can achieve my dream.

Maya Angelou was born on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri. Growing up she was abused by her mother's boyfriend. It was hard for me to know that she had a rough childhood. At that time Maya didn't talk to anyone for 5 years because she thought her words had killed a man.

Angelou moved from house to house and sometimes she didn't have a house. Maya lived in an old car junkyard with other homeless kids. Can you imagine how it would feel living in an abandoned car?

At a young age, her parents split up and Maya was sent to live with her father's mom, Anne Henderson in Stamps, Arkansas. She experienced

harsh racism for Black people in Arkansas. For example, she couldn't go into shops for White people or drink from the same water fountain as white people. This was called segregation.

Her uncle's right side of his body was paralyzed so she and her brother had to hide him in a big box of potatoes and onions when the kkk (Ku Klux Klan) came by. This was because they were afraid that the kkk would hurt him even more.

Maya Angelou became a poet and writer. In her poetry, she put the way she felt about racism and her childhood in her writing. She also read her poetry on special occasions like Bill Clinton's inauguration. There she read a poem called "On the Pulse of Morning." She was the first black poet to read her poetry at an inauguration. This is important because she inspired another black poet, Amanda Gorman, to write poetry and to read her poem at Joe Biden's inauguration.

In my opinion, Maya Angelou changed the world because she inspired many Black people to play as many roles as possible and speak out in different ways, including poems, books, or speeches. Also, Maya Angelou changed the world by being in the Civil Rights movement and she served as the leader at the northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which was a group fighting for equal rights and political rights.

Maya Angelou inspires me to be the best person I can be and become different roles in my life. She also inspired me to fight for equal rights in different ways. Maya Angelou died on May 28th, 2014 but she will always be remembered for her amazing actions like her poetry and writing. Maya Angelou's spirit lives on forever.