

Mini Essay on Diction

- Diction / Word Choice
 - Tone
- Textual Support w/ proper citations
 - 50 pts
- SHARE in GOOGLE DOCS / Title Caged Bird Diction
- You can **NOT** use the examples in your paragraph that I did.

Choose ONE topic from your chart (her feelings about herself, Stamps, her life in general, or her family) and explain how Maya feels about the

topic and explain **how** you know this (textual support). Look at DICTION (specific words)

Maya uses in the quotes you wrote down **and explain how her use of those words** lets us know how she feels about the topic. **English 10 students must have at least ONE quote w/ proper () citation and LIT classes need to have at least TWO quotes w/ proper () citations.**

EXAMPLE / MODEL

In Maya Angelou's book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya loves her brother more than almost anything in the world. Maya and her brother have been through a lot together. Their parents separated and shuffle them around, eventually sending them to live with their grandmother in the South. Maya's grandmother owns a store and is much more attentive to Maya and her brother than her parents ever were; however, despite the parental love Maya now feels, she still cares for her brother above all else. Maya writes that she, "loved [sweet chocolate drops] more than anything in the world, except Bailey" (Angelou 15). Maya is five years old in this chapter and it is common knowledge that five year olds are obsessed with candy. For a child to care about her brother more than candy is a pretty big deal. Maya chooses to compare her love for her brother to candy because these are the terms in which a child would understand love. Maya

later reiterates her love for Bailey in chapter four when she explains, “Bailey was the greatest person in my world. And the fact that he was my brother, my only brother, and I had no sister to share him with, was such good fortune that it make me want to live a Christian life just to show God I was grateful” (Angelou 21-22). In this passage Maya declares her love for Bailey and compliments him by saying he is the “greatest person in [her] world” (Angelou 21). The word greatest is a superlative meaning that he is not only important but the most important person to her. Furthermore, she explains that having him as a brother makes her so “grateful” that she wants to become a better person which shows what a significant influence he has on her (Angelou 22).