

# ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** **I-Search/Research Projects – 200 points**

Work in groups of 1-3  
(You **may** work with people from other hours)

Throughout this unit we have been reading, discussing, and analyzing *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. To wrap up this unit, you will conduct a creative research assignment that investigates ideas we've studied throughout this autobiography. This project is YOUR opportunity to show me how much you've really gained from this unit.

Usually, projects like this take up a decent amount of class time. In this case, you will get **very little IF any time** in class to work on these projects. This is something that must be worked on **OUTSIDE** of class. You want to be sure to plan accordingly. It will not be a fun project if you start it two days before the due date.

Don't worry; I have good news for you. You have the option to work alone or with up to 2 other people. Your group mates can be from other classes, but be sure to **clearly label which hour you are from.**

Your success depends greatly on your creativity! You'll want to **go above and beyond** for this assignment. In this case, sticking to the project guidelines will hurt your grade in the end.

## **Turn in assignments in Google Classroom OR to me**

- **10% deduction for submission errors**
- **20% deduction for minutes/hours late**
- **30% deduction for one or more days late**

## Select ONE and LABEL Your Project

### Option #1 : Suggesting better decisions for the characters:

Develop several different options or possibilities for the character(s) in Caged Bird. You'll need to explain why these options are better for the character. This project has two parts: first, the explanation of **what the characters should do differently**, and second, an explanation about **why** your suggestion is a better option. Both parts combined should equal about 600 words; however you will want to be sure the each part is clearly divided from the other and labeled. This particular project should be submitted in Google Classroom. You might use situations from the text like when Momma let the "powhitetrash" talk down to her. **Reminder: find ways to add creative touches to go over and above the requirements. Consider adding visuals etc. You will need to go above and beyond in order to get a top grade.**

### Option #2: Finding Caged Bird Themes in Music:

Take a closer look at some of the songs we hear on the radio today. Can you find any songs that use similar themes that we've discussed throughout the Caged Bird unit? You will need to:

- **identify and state the theme(s)** from *Caged Bird*,
- copy and paste the **FULL lyrics** from three songs w/ similar themes ,
- **highlight the specific parts** that relate to some of the themes from *Caged Bird*, and
- use **cited evidence** from the book with **PROPER ( ) CITATIONS** as well as pieces of the three songs in your explanation of how the songs have similar themes to *Caged Bird* - think symbolically and avoid songs like "Caged Bird"

This assignment should **NOT** be a continuation of the Theme Song assignment we worked on earlier. Instead, this assignment requires you to analyze the **broader themes** of the work as a whole rather than one specific character. Create Power Point Slides or Google Presentation Slides. You would NOT present the presentation. Instead it would be a slide show that I would view. Again, **do NOT** use any of the songs from your theme song assignment and note above how the focus of this assignment is different than the theme song assignment. You DO need to provide the full lyrics so if you do a Power Point presentation paste them on the slides, and if you need more than one slide for a song, that is ok. Include a title slide, pics, quotes with ( )

citations. If you'd like, you can also provide audio clips of the song. **Normally you only use key words and bullets on slides; HOWEVER, these slides WILL have complete sentences and even paragraphs since they are not being presented.** Students who would prefer to do this assignment in the form of a standard essay can do so if desired. If so, the essay format should be 600 words minimum not including the lyrics and the FULL lyrics should be attached to the end of the essay. **Reminder: find ways to add creative touches to go over and above the requirements. Consider adding visuals etc. You will need to go above and beyond in order to get a top grade.**

### **Option #3 Scrapbook (Traditional or Digital):**

Create a scrapbook for the following characters: Maya, Bailey, Annie Henderson (Momma), Uncle Willie and Vivian Baxter. This is one the projects that is almost entirely driven by your creativity because you will have to choose **multiple** images, quotes, adjectives, and captions for each of the characters you choose. You should include **2 pages per character**. Your quotes should be **meaningful and properly cited**. Make sure you really let your creativity fly with the pages. Fill up the pages, avoid too much blank space, and make pages attractive. If you create a traditional scrapbook, it will be handed into me. However, if you create a digital scrapbook, it will be turned in via Google Classroom. This assignment needs to WOW me. You will have to flex your creative muscles if you want to do well on this project. **Reminder: find ways to add creative touches to go over and above the requirements. Consider adding visuals etc. You will need to go above and beyond in order to get a top grade.**

### **Option #4 Have a Way With Words / Poetry ☺ :**

Find THREE poems that convey the same theme as the book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. They all need to be **from different authors, NONE** can be ones we read in class, and only one can be from a dead white guy. If you don't want any dead white authors, that's fine. One of them could be by Maya Angelou as long as it was **not** one read in class.

Provide an attractive cover, the actual poems selected, a related visual w/ each picture, and a 600 word essay using textual support from the poems and the book WITH proper ( ) citations demonstrating textual support for the theme. Be sure when you refer to poem titles in your essay they are in “ “ and

when you refer to the book it is underlined or in *italics*. The essay should be written in formal academic tone so there should be no personal references, contractions, third person references, etc. The poems and primary text should all **have ONE common theme and the essay only addresses that common theme NOT** plot, not differences, not characters, etc.

The themes are **never** just one word like love, resilience, war, etc. Instead they are broad universal lessons we can apply to our own lives. Therefore, WHAT are the poems and the primary text (*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*) saying about love, education, family, etc.? AGAIN SPECIFIC passages are required from ALL four texts. Be sure to set up the quotes and provide COMMENTARY about the passages. **Reminder: find ways to add creative touches to go over and above the requirements. Consider adding visuals etc. You will need to go above and beyond in order to get a top grade.**

#### **Option #5 A Different Perspective/ Creative Writing:**

Re-write a pivotal part of the book through the eyes of another specific character. You cannot use Maya Angelou for his assignment since the entire book is from her perspective. Instead, you can take an important part of the book and rewrite it from the perspective of Bailey, Momma, and Willie, or one of Maya's parents. Those are just examples, feel free to use any other major character for this assignment (**BESIDES** Maya). Be sure to use your imagery skills from the Personal Narrative Unit for this project. You want to be sure to show and not tell. Remember, with this assignment you are now the author. It should be 600 words. You should have a creative cover for your written piece. **Dialogue** is definitely a must and be sure that you use the correct punctuation and paragraphing. Dialogue will be required for this particular project. Remember **that interesting tags and narration** are a huge part of this. Review your dialogue notes sheet if you need to be refreshed. **Reminder: find ways to add creative touches to go over and above the requirements. Consider adding visuals etc. You will need to go above and beyond in order to get a top grade.**

## **Option #6 Visualization of Maya Angelou /Documentary Video** **Production:**

Create a video documentary on Maya Angelou's life. The documentary will blend ACTUAL clips of Maya Angelou off of the Internet of her as an adult AND clips CREATED by the group that re-create important parts of her childhood that were documented in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Each created clip will include direct passages from the book and there will be narration by a group member or group members that TIE the clips together AND provide COMMENTARY on the significance of the passage. The project should include TRANSITIONS and should flow smoothly. There should be at least THREE modern clips of Maya as an adult as well as TWO reenacted clips of events from the book. Consider adding props, perhaps visuals, captions, music, etc. Remember that some video software requires you to not only save the document but **hit finish or publish** so that it pulls all clips and images and saves it into the document. Otherwise it will play on YOUR computer and NOT other computers. Be sure to test it on another computer before submitting and **CLEARLY LABEL ALL FULL NAMES and HOURS of group members on the opening and final credits**. If you want to use additional people in your video you can but only three people get credit for this project. **Reminder: find ways to add creative touches to go over and above the requirements. Consider adding visuals etc. You will need to go above and beyond in order to get a top grade.** Turn in in GOOGLE CLASSROOM!

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR GRADING CRITERIA

**This assignment is 200 points!**

- ✓ **Be creative. You NEED to go beyond the minimum requirements if you want to receive a top grade.**
- ✓ **FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES OF YOUR PARTICULAR PROJECT**
- ✓ **YOU NEED TO PROOFREAD. You will lose points for mechanics and grammar mistakes.**
- ✓ **Quotes are your friend. Use MEANINGFUL QUOTES and not just your run of the mill quotes that don't mean much. Include proper documentation and citations!**
- ✓ **Include SPECIFIC DETAILS. Show your audience that you are an expert on this book. Flaunt what you have learned thus far!**
- ✓ **This project is based on Quality and Effort.**

- ✓ **REMEMBER: the expectations are higher for groups with more people. Make sure everyone is contributing to their fullest potential!**
- ✓ **Papers should be typed. Projects should look clean and presentable. Be careful of handwritten components. Make sure your handwriting is attractive and clear! Clearly label you project with your names and hours.**

**MOST PROJECTS ARE TURNED INTO GOOGLE CLASSROOM UNLESS THEY ARE BULKY. FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR TRADITIONAL SCRAPBOOK WILL NOT BE TURNED IN TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM!**

**Little if any class time will be provided on this project**

**Rock It! BIG grade!**