

Full Names:

Hour

# Poems by Maya Angelou

**29 pts possible**

Poems should be read over at least THREE times before you attempt to Interpret them. MAKE ANNOTATIONS ON EACH OF THE POEMS. THOSE ANNOTATIONS WILL BE GRADED. ANNOTATIONS ARE WORTH 6 pts.

## **“Alone”**

1. How does this poem relate to the book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*? Provide SPECIFICS from the book and poem in your answer. DEVELOP your answer with multiple examples. 4 pts
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is the THEME of this poem? 1 pt
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Give textual support for your theme. 1 pt

**Turn sheet over**

## **“Willie”**

4. This poem is about Maya’s Uncle Willie. Write down your favorite lines and explain WHY they are your favorite. 4 pts. DEVELOP

5. Interpret each of the following lines:

“Solitude was the climate in his head.” 1pt

“Emptiness was the partner in his bed” 1pt

“Pain echoed in the steps of his tread” 1pt

4. Based on the pre-reading, the book, AND this poem explain why Maya loved Uncle Willie. What made him special to her? 2 pts

**cont. on the next page**

## **“The Lesson”**

Poems should be read over at least THREE times before you attempt to interpret them. This poem is pretty complex so don't rush.

1. What kind of a life do you think the narrator lived? 1pts
2. How would you characterize the narrator? What do we know about her personality? 1 pt
3. GIVE textual support from the poem that you used to base your characterization. 1 pt
4. Why do you think the poem is called “The Lesson”? 1pt
5. What other title would fit the poem? Be sure to take the message and tone into account. 1 pt.
6. EXPLAIN WHY you think that title would fit. 1pt.

Turn over sheet

7. What do you think the overall tone of the poem is? (Note: this is a tricky question. Read it over carefully. Don't ask me. Hint: the ending of a poem is generally the most significant.) **2 pts**

- a) hopeful and triumphant
- b) hurt and depressed
- c) happy and carefree

Staple poems WITH annotations to this question packet.

Make sure everyone's names are on this packet.