

Year 7 Spring 1 Homework Bank: Multicultural Poetry

	+	++	+++	Date to be completed by:
1	<p>Research: One of the following poets and create a fact file about them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Age • Place of Birth • Poetry • Interesting facts <p><i>Poets to choose from:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Maya Angelou</i> 2. <i>Benjamin Zephaniah</i> 3. <i>Eve Merriam</i> 4. <i>Sujata Bhatt</i> <p>SPaG: Use punctuation correctly.</p> <p>Key Words: learn these words for your spelling test:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poetry 2. Africa 3. Different 4. Stanza 5. Alliteration 6. Simile 7. European 8. British 9. Race 10. Biography 	<p>Research: One of the following poets and create a fact file about them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Age • Place of Birth • Poetry • Interesting facts • What is different about them? What is similar about them? <p><i>Poets to choose from:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Maya Angelou</i> 2. <i>Benjamin Zephaniah</i> 3. <i>Eve Merriam</i> 4. <i>Sujata Bhatt</i> <p>SPaG: Use punctuation correctly.</p> <p>Key Words: learn these words for your spelling test</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lyrics 2. Caribbean 3. Differences 4. Stanza 5. European 6. British 7. Metaphor 8. Biography 9. Social 10. Flag 	<p>Research: Choose two of the poets below, and write about them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Age • Place of Birth • Poetry • Interesting facts • What is different about them? What is similar about them? • How have they influenced the field of poetry? <p><i>Poets to choose from:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Maya Angelou</i> 2. <i>Benjamin Zephaniah</i> 3. <i>Eve Merriam</i> 4. <i>Sujata Bhatt</i> <p>SPaG: Use punctuation correctly.</p> <p>Key Words: learn these words for your spelling test</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Song 2. Caribbean 3. Differences 4. Anaphora 5. European 6. Structure 7. Commentary 8. Biography 9. Multiculturalism 10. Onomatopoeia 	

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2	Answer the questions for the newspaper article about Angelou.	Answer the questions for the newspaper article about Angelou.	Answer the questions for the newspaper article about Angelou.	
3	Big Questions: "It is important to study literature from other countries." How far do you agree with this statement?	Big Questions: "It is important to a wide range of literature to form our own opinions about the world." How far do you agree with this statement?	Big Questions: "We must not only read literature from other countries, but also written from different perspectives (children, women, men, etc.)" How far do you agree with this statement?	

Text for Wider Reading:

Maya Angelou showed how to survive rape and racism – and still be joyful

[Tayari Jones](#)

She kicked the door open so wide that, within her life, people young and old didn't quite remember there was a door at all

Maya Angelou published her iconic autobiography, [I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings](#), in 1969, the year before I was born – so I arrived in a world where this black woman from the American south had already proven that her life was one fit for literature. Angelou's was a life fascinating enough to capture the attention of everyday folks who looked to books to sort out what was what in this complicated country of ours.

Before Caged Bird, Richard Wright's [Black Boy](#) was thought to be the definitive memoir of growing up black in the Jim Crow south. Black Boy – brutal and tragic – reinforced the popular feeling that the answers to the "race question" were issues of manhood. Caged Bird added Angelou's voice to this

conversation – harmony and song – in becoming a classic itself.

Let us take a moment to remember that Angelou wrote about her experience as a rape survivor over 40 years ago, despite a culture of silence and shame. (Indeed, her own guilt and shame rendered her mute for five years.) As millions of women [took to Twitter last week using the hashtag #YesAllWomen](#) to share their experiences of sexual assault, I doubt anyone was thinking of Maya Angelou.

This is what happens when our elders do their work well: Angelou kicked the door open so wide that within her own lifetime there existed younger people who didn't quite remember that there was ever a door there at all.

We must also remember that she did so before the term "intersectionality" was coined to describe the treacherous crossroads of racism and sexism. [Maya Angelou](#) navigated the minefield that is accusing a black man of rape, all while black men were laboring under the stigma of being assumed to be rapists. Writing with such love for her community, Angelou was able to point the finger at *one* man, while still expressing her great love for the men in her community who loved, nurtured and even avenged

her. While her single brave voice didn't ignite an immediate public conversation, it sparked countless private ones.

Hers were healing words for men and well as women, a laying on of hands.

Angelou showed us how to live as well as how to write. Who could forget [the vision of her wearing that splendid coat](#) reading the inaugural poem for President Bill Clinton? She lived well – and there are those who would fault her for it, as though her prosperity and popularity somehow undermined the message of her words or negated her contributions to social justice. But for me, her love of the good life was an inspiration.

There is another, more obscure hashtag that reminds me of her: [#CareFreeBlackGirl](#). That expression is in the tradition of Zora Neale Hurston, who once remarked, "I am not tragically colored. There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul." What Angelou showed us throughout her life was joy: one can reckon with great pain and adversity, but still be happy just to be alive. "Life loves the liver of it," [she wrote](#).

Angelou never wavered in her commitment to community, but she also practiced self-love and self-

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care in public. There's another famous Hurston quote: "the black woman is the mule of the world." But when we see photos of Maya Angelou [clad in dancer's tights draped across her bed reading a magazine](#), or [dancing a bop with Amiri Baraka](#) we think: *not always, not necessarily.*

Upon hearing of the passing of her old friend, [Toni Morrison remarked](#), "I thought she was eternal, that she would always be there." I understand what she means. Angelou lived a long life – 86 years – but her passing comes as a surprise to my spirit. We loved her long and we loved her well and maybe we foolishly hoped that our love would keep her here forever.

Wider Reading Text Questions:

1. How is Maya Angelou presented as a person in this article? *What do we think about her and why? Find evidence to support your ideas.*
2. What did Maya Angelou do that was so revolutionary? *Find evidence.*
3. What do you think Angelou wants us to learn from this quotation: "Angelou never wavered in her commitment to community, but she also practiced self-love and self-care in public."
4. **+1** Look at the poem: 'Phenomenal Women' – consider the information in this article, why do you think that Angelou wrote it?

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Template for the fact file: suggest **two** facts in each box in full sentences.

World War One: Research Fact File

Research Topic:

