



BOOK RESUME: I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide.

Title: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Author: Maya Angelou

Imprint: Random House Trade Paperbacks

Publisher: Random House Publishing Group

On sale date: April 21, 2009

ISBN: 9780812980028

Format: Paperback

Grade Range: Classic

Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

Poetic and powerful, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* liberates the reader into life simply because Maya Angelou confronts her own life with such a moving wonder, such a luminous dignity." —James Baldwin

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Educator Guide](#)
- [Readers Guide](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [Spotlight on Censorship: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings](#) (2010)
- [Record of challenges created by Marshall University, 2001–21](#)
- [Alaska school board removes 'The Great Gatsby,' 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' from curriculum over 'controversial' content](#) (2020)

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Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.