



# I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

## Book key

1–3 Open answers

- 4 **a** song  
**b** disrespect  
**c** shame  
**d** rude  
**e** curly  
**f** developed  
**g** intolerance  
**h** divided  
**i** term

5 Open answers

- 6 **a** Uncle Willie  
**b** “the used-to-be sheriff” (the ex-sheriff)  
**c** Mr. McElroy  
**d** Bailey

7 Open answers

- 8 **a** True  
**b** True  
**c** False  
**d** True  
**e** True  
**f** False  
**g** False  
**h** True  
**i** False  
**j** True

9 Possible answer: Because of the large numbers of unskilled black workers.

10 **a** cleanliness

- b** imitate  
**c** speak  
**d** black  
**e** dead  
**f** doorman  
**g** astonished  
**h** bigger  
**i** brother

11 **a** 6 **b** 8 **c** 1 **d** 3 **e** 9 **f** 4 **g** 10 **h** 7  
**i** 5 **j** 2

12 Open answers

13 Open answers

- 14 **a** Mother to Maya and Bailey.  
**b** Mr. Freeman to Maya.  
**c** Mr. Freeman’s lawyer to Maya.  
**d** Maya to Mr. Freeman.

- e** A policeman to Grandmother Baxter.  
**f** Grandmother Baxter to the policeman.  
**g** Momma to Bailey.  
**h** Bailey to people in the Store.

15 Possible answer: She was lonely and needed affection: “I was hurt for a time and felt lonelier than ever.”

16 Open answers

17 Open answers

- a** Mrs. Cullinan  
**b** Mrs. Flowers  
**c** Mrs. Cullinan  
**d** Mrs. Flowers  
**e** Mrs. Flowers  
**f** Mrs. Cullinan  
**g** Mrs. Flowers

- 18 **a** Momma  
**b** Mrs. Flowers  
**c** Miss Glory  
**d** Mrs. Cullinan  
**e** Maya  
**f** Kay Francis  
**g** Louise  
**h** Miss Williams

- 19 **a** False  
**b** False  
**c** False  
**d** False  
**e** False  
**f** True  
**g** False  
**h** True  
**i** True  
**j** False

20 Open answers

21 Open answers (They worried about being bombed by the Japanese. Japanese Americans were taken away and put in prison camps because America was at war with Japan.)

22 **a** irrelevant > important/exciting

- b** science > sport  
**c** qualified > elected  
**d** ashamed > proud/better  
**e** tired > frightened/scared/afraid  
**f** all > part/some  
**g** meal > party  
**h** shot > bombed

23–25 Open answers



# I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

26 a 2 b 1 c 5 d 3 e 4

27 a Yes

b Yes

c No

d No

e Yes

f No

g No

h Yes

28–29 Open answers

30 a Bailey

b the receptionist

c the conductor

d Mother

e Maya

31–41 Open answers

## Discussion activities key

1 Students should point out that the woman is black and that she is wearing traditional African clothing and jewelry. They should also notice that she is holding an African cane with an elephant carved into it. They should point out that she is looking off to the side in a very proud and dignified way. They should guess that the woman is Maya Angelou because she is the author of the book and the book is autobiographical. They should guess that she is very confident and proud because of her appearance and posture.

2–7 Open answers

8 a 6 b 8 c 5 d 7 e 2 f 3 g 4 h 1

i 10 j 11 k 9 l 12

9–17 Open answers

18 a comfort

b lonely

c family

d relax

e city

f dark

g kind

h proud

i color

j neat

k dress

l voice

m dream

n pity

o lie

p friend

q prayer

r train

s love

t hateful

19–31 Open answers

32 a 9 b 1 c 5 d 2 e 8 f 7 g 3 h 10

i 12 j 6 k 4 l 11

33 Open answers

## Activity worksheets key

1 a 5 b 1 c 4 d 7 e 6 f 3 g 8 h 2

2 a F b F c T d T e F

3 a stick

b won

c Mrs.

d land

e iron

4 a 4 b 1 c 2 d 3 e 5

5 a dirty

b winter

c dust

d cornbread

e nasty

f beautiful

g church

h honor

i proud

j family

k lonely

l trouble

m handsome

n power

o gambling

p whiskey

q hurt

r naughty

s pain

t terrible

6 a Momma to Bailey

b Mrs. Flowers to Marguerite

c Mrs. Cullinan to her friends.

d Glory to Marguerite

e Mrs. Cullinan to Glory

f Momma to Marguerite

g Momma to Bailey

h Uncle Willie to Bailey



## I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

7 a 4 b 2 c 7 d 1 e 5 f 3 g 6

8 a graduating

b graduation

c graduates

d graduated

e graduating

f graduating

9 a 7 b 4 c 8 d 1 e 5 f 6 g 2 h 3

10 a 3 b 5 c 1 d 4 e 6 f 2

### Progress test key

1 a purple

b marriage

c cautiously

d night

e next

f black

g curls

h whites

2 a powder

b frighten

c mouth

d burden

e ungrateful

f feel

g scared

h kill

3 a Marguerite and Bailey

b people living in Stamps

c Uncle Willie

d Marguerite

e Mrs. Flowers

4 a 2 b 1 c 5 d 4 e 3 f 6

5 a 3 b 8 c 7 d 1 e 4 f 2 g 5 h 6