

## Junior English III

### *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* Active Reading Questions

Answering the following questions as you read will help you better understand Maya Angelou's autobiography and an important era of American history through her perspective. These questions with your responses are due the first day of school and are your first grade for English III. **They are worth two points each (sixty points total). Half credit is the most you may receive after the first day.**

#### **Prologue and Chapters 1-9**

1. Why are Bailey and Marguerite sent to live with Annie Henderson? Where did they move from and where did they move to?
2. Why does Uncle Willie have to hide in the vegetable bin? Why does Maya Angelou include this incident?
3. Why does the incident with the "powhitetrash" children in the Store distress and humiliate Marguerite?
4. What is Marguerite's favorite book in the Bible? What does her choice tell you about her?
5. How does the Depression affect the black people of Stamps? How does Momma's family fare during this time period?
6. What is Daddy like? How does he change their lives?

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## Chapters 10-17

7. How are St. Louis and Stamps different?

8. Who is Mr. Freeman? How does he betray Marguerite?

9. What happens to Mr. Freeman? How does Marguerite react to his fate?

10. Who is Mrs. Flowers? What does Marguerite learn from her?

11. Why does Marguerite master the art of crocheting and tatting?

12. What does Mrs. Cullinan do that deeply offends Marguerite? How does Marguerite show her displeasure?

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### **Chapters 18-22**

13. How does the writer explain the importance of religion in black people's lives?

14. What do "society's pariahs" have to do to become "angels in heaven"?

15. What does the writer mean by "the righteousness of the poor"?

16. Why is the Louis-Carnera fight so important to the black community?

17. Why is Louise Kendricks important to Marguerite?

18. How does Bailey's love affair with Joyce affect his life?



