

Maya Angelou



Marguerite Annie Johnson Angelou (April 4, 1928 to May 28, 2014), better known as Maya Angelou, was an American author, actress, screenwriter, dancer, poet and civil rights activist best known for her 1969 memoir, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which made literary history as the first nonfiction best-seller by an African-American woman.

She was active in the Civil Rights Movement and worked alongside other civil rights activists such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Martin Luther King Jr., a very close friend Maya Angelou, was assassinated on her birthday in 1968. Angelou stopped celebrating her birthday for many years as a result, and sent flowers to King's widow, Coretta Scott King, for more than 30 years, until Coretta's death in 2006.

In 1993, Angelou recited her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" at President Bill Clinton's inauguration, making her the first poet to make an inaugural recitation since Robert Frost at the inauguration of John F. Kennedy in 1961.