

Celebrate BLACK HISTORY

Maya Angelou

1928 – 2014

author
poet
activist
actress

Maya Angelou was an African-American author, poet, activist and actress. Angelou received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2010. She recited her poem *On the Pulse of Morning* in 1993 at President Bill Clinton's inauguration, the first poet in more than 30 years to have the honor. Angelou was also active in the American civil rights movement, serving in the early 1960s as the northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference at the request of Martin Luther King Jr.

Born Marguerite Annie Johnson, Angelou published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry and was credited with plays, movies and television shows spanning more than 50 years. She is best known for *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* — her first autobiography — which brought her international recognition and acclaim.

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