Lesson Question

Read from *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou.

**Lesson Goals**

- **Make inferences**
  - based on a person’s thoughts, or actions.

- **Analyze** an author’s and viewpoint.

- **Make** between two texts.
Words to Know

Write the letter of the definition next to the matching word as you work through the lesson. You may use the glossary to help you.

_____ express  
A. a quality that contributes to who a person is and makes him or her different from other people.

_____ purpose  
B. to communicate one’s ideas and feelings about something

_____ viewpoint  
C. an author’s primary reason for writing a text

_____ inference  
D. the way an author thinks or feels about a subject

_____ personality trait  
E. a conclusion made on the basis of implicit or explicit evidence

Different Personalities

[ ] is what someone is like. It’s all the sum of the different [ ] a person has.
**Instruction**

**Part 1**

**Viewpoint in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings***

### Autobiography

An autobiography is a text about the **own life**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autobiography:</th>
<th>Made-up:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>Made-up story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real people</td>
<td>Made-up characters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real setting</td>
<td>Made-up setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>events</td>
<td>Made-up events</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

An autobiography is considered informational.

However, an autobiography can be characterized as a piece of **informational text**.
Viewpoint in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

**Inferring a Personality Trait**

A personality trait is a _______ that contributes to who a person is and makes him or her _______ from other people.

*Complete the graphic organizer.*

In order to identify personality traits, a reader has to _______ based on details.
Making Inferences about Personality Traits

To identify personality traits, make an inference based on the person’s:

- thoughts.
- words.
- actions.

Underline details in the text about the person’s actions.

For nearly a year, I sopped around the house, the Store, the school and the church, like an old biscuit, dirty and inedible. Then I met, or rather got to know, the lady who threw me my first life line.

–I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, *Maya Angelou*
Maya Angelou (1928–2014)

- Was born in St. Louis, as Marguerite Ann Johnson
- Experienced a traumatic event in St. Louis, Missouri
- Moved to New York in 1958 and joined the Harlem
- Changed her name to Maya Angelou
- Published *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* in
- Has more than fifty honorary

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Chapter 15

Place:
Stamps, Arkansas, a segregated society, 1930

People:
Marguerite Bailey Momma Mrs. Flowers

Conflict:
Marguerite is not
Viewpoint in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

**Author’s Purpose**

The author’s purpose is the purpose the author writes a text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General purpose:</th>
<th>purpose:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• To</td>
<td>• To tell the events of a historic battle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To persuade</td>
<td>• To convince people to vote a certain way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To entertain</td>
<td>• To amuse people with funny stories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Connecting the Author’s Purpose and Viewpoint**

An author’s viewpoint is the way the author thinks and feels about the topic of the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author’s</th>
<th>Author’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• To tell about her childhood</td>
<td>• How the author about her childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Understanding the Author’s Viewpoint

Underline words in the text that show Maya Angelou’s viewpoints.

Momma had a strange relationship with her. Most often when she passed on the road in front of the Store, she spoke to Momma in that soft yet carrying voice, "Good day, Mrs. Henderson." Momma responded with "How you, Sister Flowers?" Mrs. Flowers didn't belong to our church, nor was she Momma's familiar. Why on earth did she insist on calling her Sister Flowers? Shame made me want to hide my face. Mrs. Flowers deserved better than to be called Sister. Then, Momma left out the verb. Why not ask, "How are you, Mrs. Flowers?" With the unbalanced passion of the young, I hated her for showing her ignorance to Mrs. Flowers. It didn't occur to me for many years that they were as alike as sisters, separated only by formal education.

–I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, 
Maya Angelou

Making Connections between Two Texts

Authors can express their ideas about the world and their viewpoint in different ways.

**Autobiography**
- Tells a story
- Involves great detail

**Poem**
- Uses figurative and language
- An idea or emotion

Maya Angelou’s poem and her autobiography both address the idea of
Viewpoint in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

**Understanding Making Connections**

In the poem, circle an image that represents freedom. Underline action words in the poem that connect to the feeling of freedom.

**Autobiography**

Marguerite Johnson:

- feels trapped by __________ and poverty.
- Finds __________ in books and knowledge.

**Poem**

A free bird leaps on the back of the wind and floats downstream till the current ends and dips his wing in the orange sun rays and dares to claim the sky.

—“Caged Bird,”
*Maya Angelou*
Lesson Question

What can we learn about an author’s viewpoint based on her writing?

Answer

Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.