

Read. Think. Explain.

In trying to understand a poem, it's important to read through it carefully and thoughtfully, focusing on the words the author chose *and* thinking about the poem's big ideas. In this activity, you'll answer a series of questions about Maya Angelou's "Life Doesn't Frighten Me" to grasp its full meaning.

Directions: Answer the questions below, using information and details from the poem to back up your ideas.

1. What line (or variation of that) is repeated throughout the poem? What effect does this repetition have?

2. What are some of the experiences that don't frighten the narrator?

3. Who might be frightened by these things? Who could the narrator be?

4. Even though the poem is written in the voice of a young child, how do you think it appeals to people of all ages? What is its universal message?
