



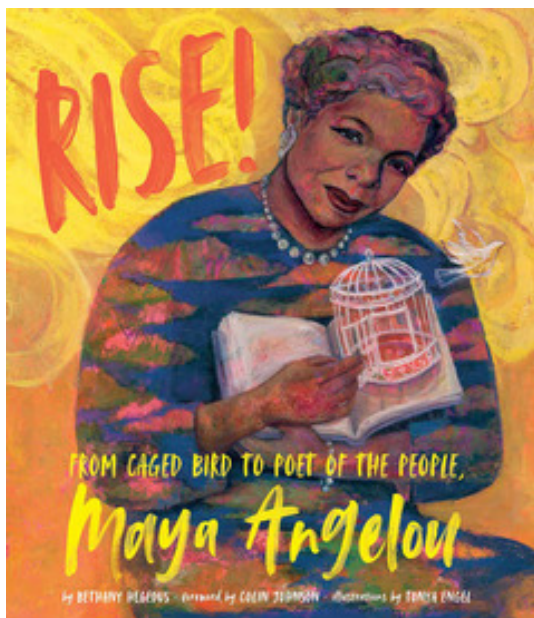
**Bethany Hegedus – Author**

**Tonya Engel – Illustrator**

***Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People***

Writer, activist, trolley car conductor, dancer, mother, and humanitarian--Maya Angelou's life was marked by transformation and perseverance. In this comprehensive picture-book biography geared towards older readers, Bethany Hegedus lyrically traces Maya's life from her early days in Stamps, Arkansas, through her work as a freedom fighter to her triumphant rise as a poet of the people.

A foreword by Dr. Angelou's grandson Colin Johnson describes how a love of literature and poetry helped young Maya overcome childhood trauma and turn adversity into triumph. Coupled with Tonya Engel's metaphorical and emotive illustrations, this biography beautifully conveys the heartaches and successes of this truly phenomenal woman, and offers a powerful tribute to the written word.



## *Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People*

### **RRS connection to TEKS (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade): Please refer to TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading:**

- *Comprehension skills*
- *Response skills*
- *Author's purpose and craft*
- *Composition I: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process.*
- *Composition II: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres.*
- *Inquiry and research*

### **Vocabulary:**

- Journey
- Maya Angelou: Poet, performer, writer, activist, humanitarian
- Transformation, perseverance
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X
- Inspiration
- Rise
- Spoken word
- California Labor School
- Passion
- Journalist
- Timeline
- Presidential Medal of Freedom

### **Pre-reading engagement:**

- What does an author do? Think about the title of the book? What does it tell us about the story? What do you think the story is about? Learn a little about the author, Bethany Hegedus.
- Make sure to read: Foreword plus look for more information about Maya Angelou
- What does an illustrator do? What did you learn about the illustrator? What does she do?
- Learn a little about the illustrator, Tonya. What information about Tonya stands out?
- Ask your librarian to help you find more information about Maya Angelou. What would you like to learn more about before reading the book?

### **While/post reading engagement:**

- Use a map to learn more about Maya's journey from St. Louis, Missouri to Stamps, Arkansas. What do you think her train ride was like?
- Compare and contrast Maya's life with her mother to life with her grandmother. How do you think Maya feels about each home?
- Find a favorite book and share why this book is so awesome. You can make a drawing or talk to a friend.
- Why do Maya and her brother return to St. Louis? Work with a few friends to prepare a response.
- Maya falls in love with reading, writing, and language. What's your favorite subject?
- Maya works very hard to take care of her son. Think about your family and draw the hardest working person in your home.
- Are you a performer? What's your favorite form of creative expression?
- Are you a writer? What's your favorite topic to write about?

- Are you an activist? What's one change you would like to see in your city?
- Do you sometimes feel like staying quiet? When? Think about other ways you can share your ideas.
- Write a poem inspired by this book. Or make a drawing inspired by this book. Your choice!
- Did you enjoy reading this book? Would you recommend this book to your friends?
- Write a book review with your opinion. You can also share your review of this book aloud.
- Read the timeline at the end of the book, select one significant moment in Maya's life.
- Don't forget to think about questions you would like to ask Tonya Engel.
- Make a welcome banner for Bethany and Tonya! Decorate it with drawings of your favorite page in the book.

**Useful links:**

- Illustrator's website: <http://tonyaengel.com/>
- Author's website: <https://www.bethanyhegedus.com/>
- Book Review: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/bethany-hegedus/rise-hegedus/>
- YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2g\\_ioacjLk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2g_ioacjLk)
- Maya Angelou: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2g\\_ioacjLk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2g_ioacjLk)
- Publisher's website: <https://www.leeandlow.com/books/rise>
- PBS: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/search-results/?q=maya&styp=episode#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=maya&gsc.page=1>