

"THOSE WHO BAN BOOKS"

by Maya Angelou

An original poem written exclusively for RHI Magazine

They were scared of sexes and hexes
and multi-colored sheets.

And men and women doing even
consensual things.

They banned a same-sex marriage room
and Judy Blume

Charles Dickens Chicken-Lickin and
Why the Caged Bird Sings

There is a poster which shows the likeness of Dickens, James Baldwin, Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut, Shakespeare, Judy Blume and Maya Angelou.

I know that puts me into wonderful company, but I pity the young students who, because of someone else's ignorance, and at someone else's whim, are unable to read Twain, Baldwin, Shakespeare and Angelou. They will miss some delight. ■

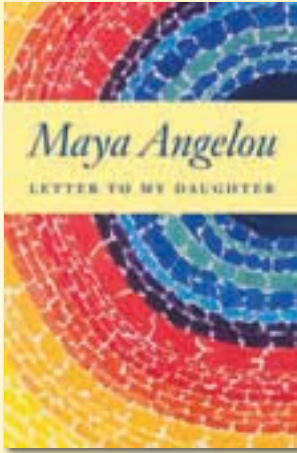
About the Writer

MAYA ANGELOU, poet, writer, performer, teacher, and director, was raised in Stamps, Arkansas, and then moved to San Francisco. In addition to her bestselling autobiographies, beginning with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, she has also written a cookbook, *Hallelujah! The Welcome Table*; five poetry collections, including *I Shall Not Be Moved* and *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?*; and the celebrated poem "On the Pulse of Morning," which she read at the inauguration of President William Jefferson Clinton. *To Have the Heart to Hope*, an essay collection, is being published in the Fall of 2008.



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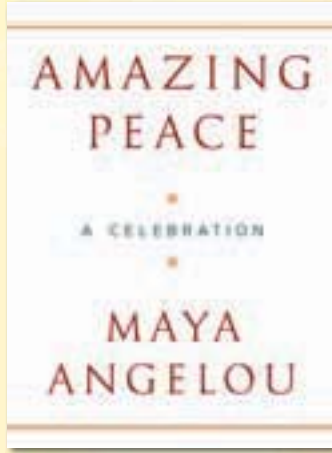
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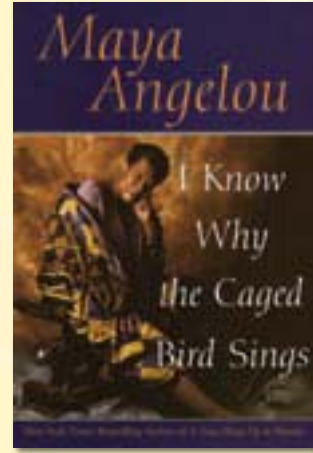
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