

PHENOMENAL WOMAN

Maya Angelou



RESOURCE GUIDE

Reading + Writing + Analysis

NO PREP

PRINT & GO

HIGH SCHOOL ELA

About the Poem

Phenomenal Woman is a confident and empowering poem that celebrates self-worth and inner beauty. Maya Angelou uses repetition, tone, and imagery to show that confidence comes from within, not from meeting outside expectations.

The poem explores themes of identity, confidence, and self-acceptance, encouraging readers to recognize their own value.

Comprehension Questions:

1. How does the speaker describe herself at the beginning of the poem?
2. What does the speaker say makes her attractive or confident?
3. How do others react to the speaker?
4. What repeated phrase appears throughout the poem?
5. What message does the speaker want others to understand?

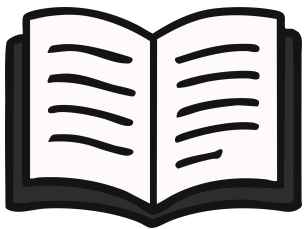
Quick Discussion

Time to Reflect

*What does it mean to be confident
in who you are?*

Extension Activity

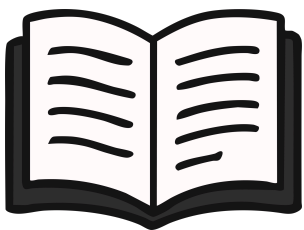
Choose one activity to complete.



- Write your own poem about self-confidence



- Identify repeated phrases and explain their purpose



- Create a visual representation of the poem's message

Understanding the Big Ideas

This poem explores:

- **Confidence and self-worth**
- **Inner beauty vs external expectations**
- **Identity and self-acceptance**
- **Power of self-expression**

How does Maya Angelou use repetition and tone to show confidence in Phenomenal Woman? Use at least one example from the poem to support your response.
