Still I Rise BY [MAYA ANGELOU](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/maya-angelou)

You may write me down in history

With your bitter, twisted lies,

You may trod me in the very dirt

But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?

Why are you beset with gloom?

’Cause I walk like I've got oil wells

Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,

With the certainty of tides,

Just like hopes springing high,

Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?

Bowed head and lowered eyes?

Shoulders falling down like teardrops,

Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?

Don't you take it awful hard

’Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines

Diggin’ in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,

You may cut me with your eyes,

You may kill me with your hatefulness,

But still, like air, I’ll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?

Does it come as a surprise

That I dance like I've got diamonds

At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history’s shame

I rise

Up from a past that’s rooted in pain

I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,

Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear

I rise

Into a daybreak that’s wondrously clear

I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,

I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise

I rise

I rise.

**Explanation of Bot**

* Explain the design of your bot and how it ties to your poem

Our Bot is a girl suspended in the air with two dark figures next to her, one holding an axe and one yelling at her. The girl rises away from the imposing shadowed figures which represents her rising away from her tormentors and the fact that she is not affected by what they do and say to her. We programmed dust to fall around her as she rises, because in one part of the poem she talks about dust falling from her as she rises from the hate that is constantly directed at her.

* Explain your use of the Hummingbird and Snap programming

We used the motor to raise the girl up (she was suspended on a string of fishing line). Underneath her are two lights that shine upon her from below. The lights are pointing upward and look like spotlights to make it clear that she is the main object of the diorama. As she rises, “dust” falls down on her thanks to vibrations that shake a piece of paper, thus releasing cascades of “dust”. In the background there is a sky with clouds and trees and green paper is cut into fringes to look like grass.

**End of Project Reflection**

1. What was the most enjoyable part of the project?

The most enjoyable part of the project was seeing the masterpiece that we were able to create, and seeing different people’s talents at work. For example, Cole worked very well with anything artistic, whether that be coloring, painting or even cutting. Anastasia was the mastermind behind the artwork and themes and practiced reading the poem dramatically. Evi did very well working with the coding and helped write a lot of the poem analysis. Ryan helped wherever he could. He helped Anastasia with the artwork and also helped Evi touch up the coding and written aspects. It was incredibly rewarding to see everything come together with a outcome that we are all very proud of.

2. What did you learn while completing this project?

We learned a lot about teamwork during this project. There were some slight disagreements at the beginning, but towards the end we were able to work together to achieve a common goal. We also worked on compromising when there were clashing opinions on what the project should be.

3.  What was the most difficult part of this project?

The most difficult part of the project was overcoming the stress of the deadline, because at first it seemed like we would never be able to finish in time, but at the end we finished with a lot of time to spare which we used to add finishing touches and finetune the programming.

Ryan O’Toole, Evi Teter, Anastasia Piacentini, and Cole Cohen           5-13-19

Language Arts                                          7.2

**Poem Analysis**

“Still I Rise”, by Maya Angelou, is a poem about racism and bullying and how Angelou does not succumb to it, no matter what others say. Angelou tells the readers how she will always rise, and how she does not understand why they are hurting her. Angelou does not specify the gender of the bullies so they could be either gender, but it is most likely about racism because of all the things she spoke out about. Despite that overlying theme, the poem can be applied to many situations regarding oppression.

The first stanza (“You may write me down in history / With your bitter, twisted lies, / You may trod me in the very dirt / But still, like dust, I’ll rise”) says that while people may write things in history books about black people that are not true, she continues to feel confident in herself. Right at the start, it seems that the poem is written in her perspective, and she is talking to those who oppressed her. The simile “like dust, I’ll rise” tells the readers that she is rising like dust and is brushing the dust off her shoulders.

In the second stanza (“Does my sassiness upset you? / Why are you beset with gloom? / ‘Cause I walk like I’ve got oil wells / Pumping in my living room”) she laughs at how people are distressed because of her self-confidence. She wonders if she intimidates them and if they are jealous. In this stanza, she uses another simile, “I walk like I’ve got oil wells,” tells us that she walks like she is rich and wonders if that makes them dislike her.

In the third stanza (“Just like moons and like suns, / With the certainty of tides, / Just like hopes springing high, / Still I’ll rise,”) she talks about how she rises and how people can say anything to her and she still will always rise. She also talks about how she will rise when they hurt her and how she will hold onto her hope even in the darkest times.

The fourth stanza (“Did you want to see me broken? / Bowed head and lowered eyes? / Shoulders falling down like teardrops, / Weakened by my soulful cries?”) speaks of how she will not let people bring her down even if they want to see her get hurt, offended, or broken and how she does not understand why they have to bring her down. Is it to bring themselves up? “Shoulders falling down like teardrops” is a simile that compares her shoulders falling to teardrops.

The sixth stanza (“You may shoot me with your words, / You may cut me with your eyes, / You may kill me with your hatefulness, / But still, like air, I’ll rise.”) means that it does not matter how you show your hate to her because she will rise anyway. She will rise no matter what and will turn the other cheek.

The seventh stanza (“Does my sexiness upset you? / Does it come as a surprise / That I dance like I’ve got diamonds / At the meeting of my thighs”) is another reference to her confidence, especially in the unrecognized power that she has as an African American woman. It may also be a reference to how one of her many jobs was dancing in nightclubs. “That I dance like I’ve got diamonds” is another simile that shows her confidence.

In the eighth stanza (“Out of the huts of history’s shame / I rise / Up from a past that’s rooted from pain / I rise / I’m a black ocean leaping and wide, / Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.”) she tells us how she will deal with her bullies. She hints that she may have been bullied before and how she rose. She will always rise. “I’m a black ocean leaping and wide” is a metaphor. She is comparing herself to black ocean but it is not a simile because it does not have ‘like’ or ‘as’.

The ninth stanza (“Leaving behind nights of terror and fear / I rise / Into a daybreak that’s wondrously clear / I rise / Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, / I am the dream and hope of a slave. / I rise / I rise / I rise.”) she talks about how she will let go all of what people say about her and she will forget it all. She then tells us how she wakes up happy and ready for the day and how she is ready for anything to happen. She then ends the poem saying that she will rise. All of the similes in this poem have to do with her confidence in herself and how she rises.

The mood is inspiring and resilient. She talks about her confidence and how she is not affected by what people say about her. The poem inspires people to love themselves no matter who they are and to know how much they are worth even when other people tell them they do not matter. She also talks about how she has grown to love and accept herself and anyone who is rude to her is just jealous.

The rhyming pattern is, except for the last two stanzas, ABCB. The last two are ABABCC, with the last stanza having three extra Bs at the end. The poem has a steady rhythm when read aloud and each paragraph goes seamlessly into the next except for the last one which has “I rise” repeated three times. This adds emphasis to the overall meaning that is delivered throughout the entire poem.