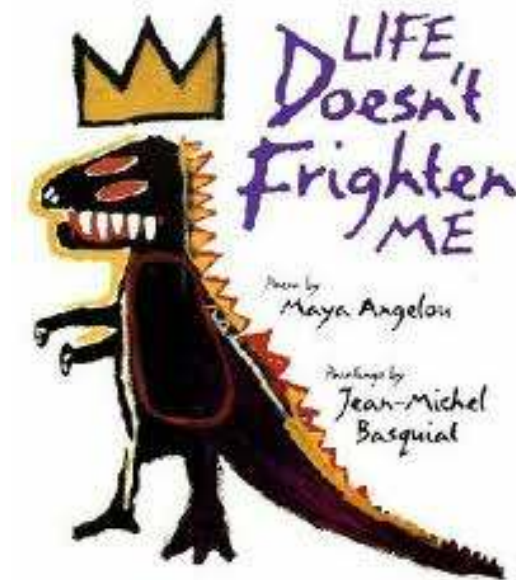


A creative activity inspired by

# Life Doesn't Frighten Me at All

A Poem written by Maya Angelou



Book published by Stewart, Tabori and Chang (1993)

Lesson created by Debbie Gonzales

## Lesson for *Life Doesn't Frighten Me At All*

### Supplies needed:

- A printed copy of *Life Doesn't Frighten Me At All* found on page 2 of this document
- A red and blue pencil or marker
- Pencil
- Two sheets of paper

### Procedure:

#### Part One

- Read poem carefully...aloud if possible.
- Reread poem taking note of the phrases that interest you, scare you, impress you, or surprise you.
- Reread poem and circle all the people, places or things (nouns) with the blue marker or pencil.
- Discuss which nouns interest you, scare you, impress you, or surprise you.
- Reread poem and circle all of the action words (verbs) with a red marker or pencil.
- Discuss which verbs interest you, scare you, impress you, or surprise you.
- What does the phrase "Life doesn't frighten me at all" mean to you? What do you think it means to the poet?
- Become fully engaged in this poem. Which phrase speaks to you? Why? What feelings does this phrase evoke? Describe your feelings.

#### Part Two

- On one sheet of paper write a long list of things that you are and are not afraid of. Try to come up with at least 10 different things. Get creative...even a little bit silly.
- Using the other sheet of paper write a list poem or a brief paragraph describing what you are not afraid of. Be bold. Go for it!
- Illustrate your poem or paragraph, if you'd like to.
- Share your piece by reading your piece aloud to the group.

## Life Doesn't Frighten Me at All

Shadows on the wall  
Noises down the hall  
Life doesn't frighten me at all

Bad dogs barking loud  
Big ghosts in a cloud  
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Mean old Mother Goose  
Lions on the loose  
They don't frighten me at all

Dragons breathing flame  
On my counterpane  
That doesn't frighten me at all.

I go boo  
Make them shoo  
I make fun  
Way they run  
I won't cry  
So they fly  
I just smile  
They go wild  
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Tough guys fight  
All alone at night  
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Panthers in the park  
Strangers in the dark  
No, they don't frighten me at all.

The new classroom where  
Boys pull my hair  
(Kissy little girls with their hair in curls)  
They don't frighten me at all.

Don't show me frogs and snakes  
And listen for my scream,  
If I'm afraid at all

It's only in my dreams.  
I've got a magic charm  
That I keep up my sleeve,  
I can walk the ocean floor  
And never have to breathe.

Life doesn't frighten me at all  
Not at all  
Not at all.

Life doesn't frighten me at all.