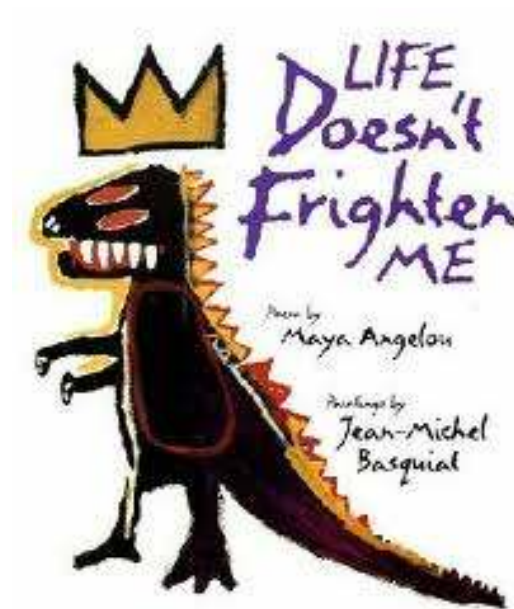


A creative activity inspired by

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 3 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.