

Little People, Big
Dreams
Maya Angelou

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Who was Maya Angelou?



- She was an American author and poet.
- April 4th 1928-May 26th 2014
- Throughout her life, she published 7 autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television.

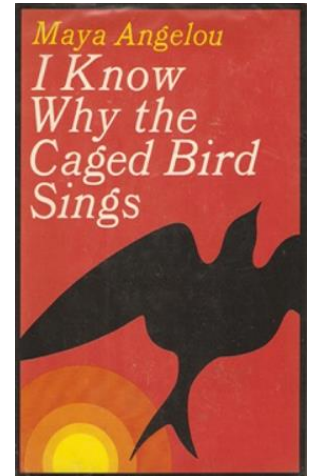


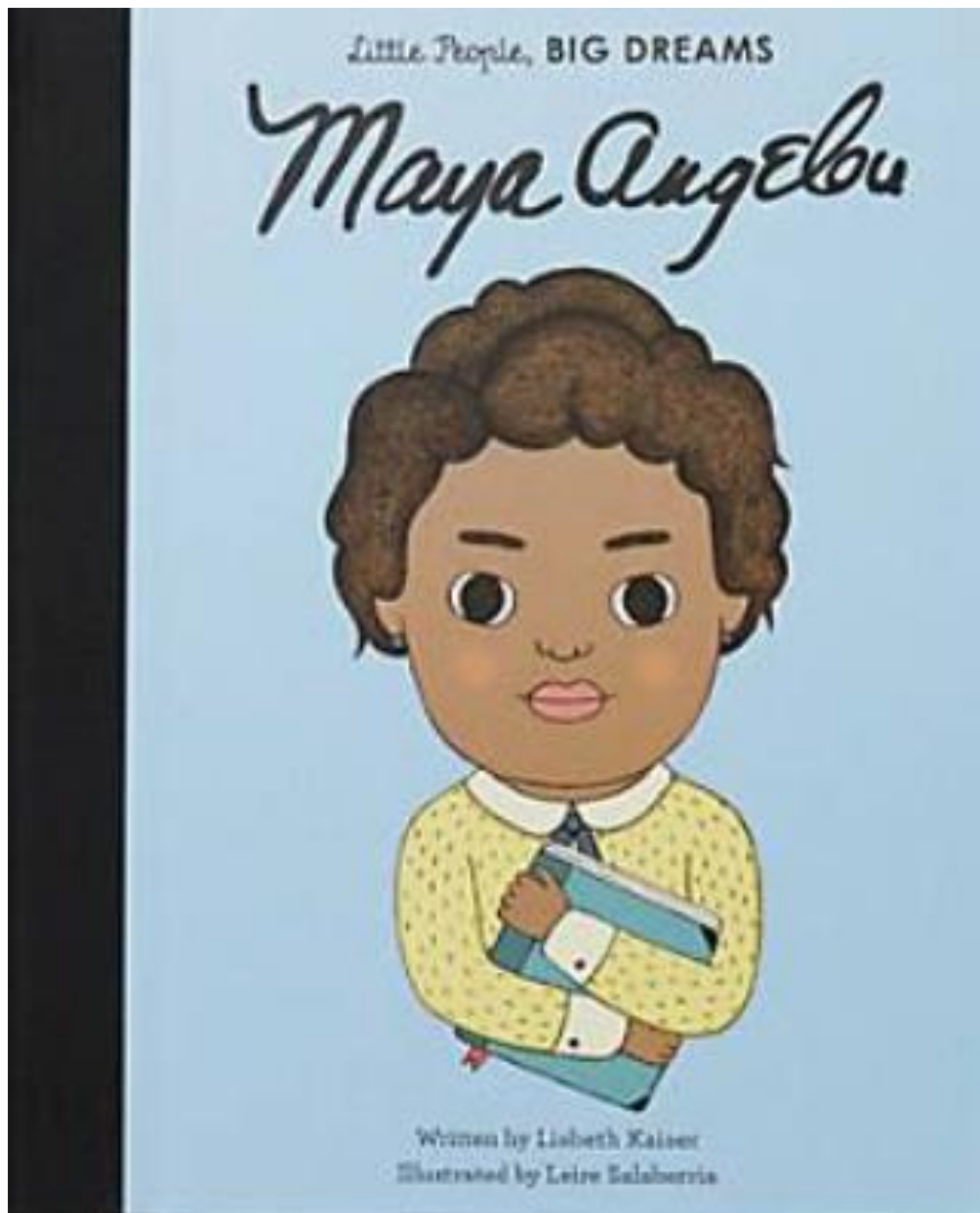
Maya Angelou's
birthplace

- Angelou is best known for seven **autobiographies**, which focus on her childhood and early adult experiences. The first, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969), tells of her life up to the age of seventeen.
- Her poems are also very famous
- Her books are centred on themes such as racism, identity, family, and travel.



Most of Angelou's time was spent in Ghana, Africa





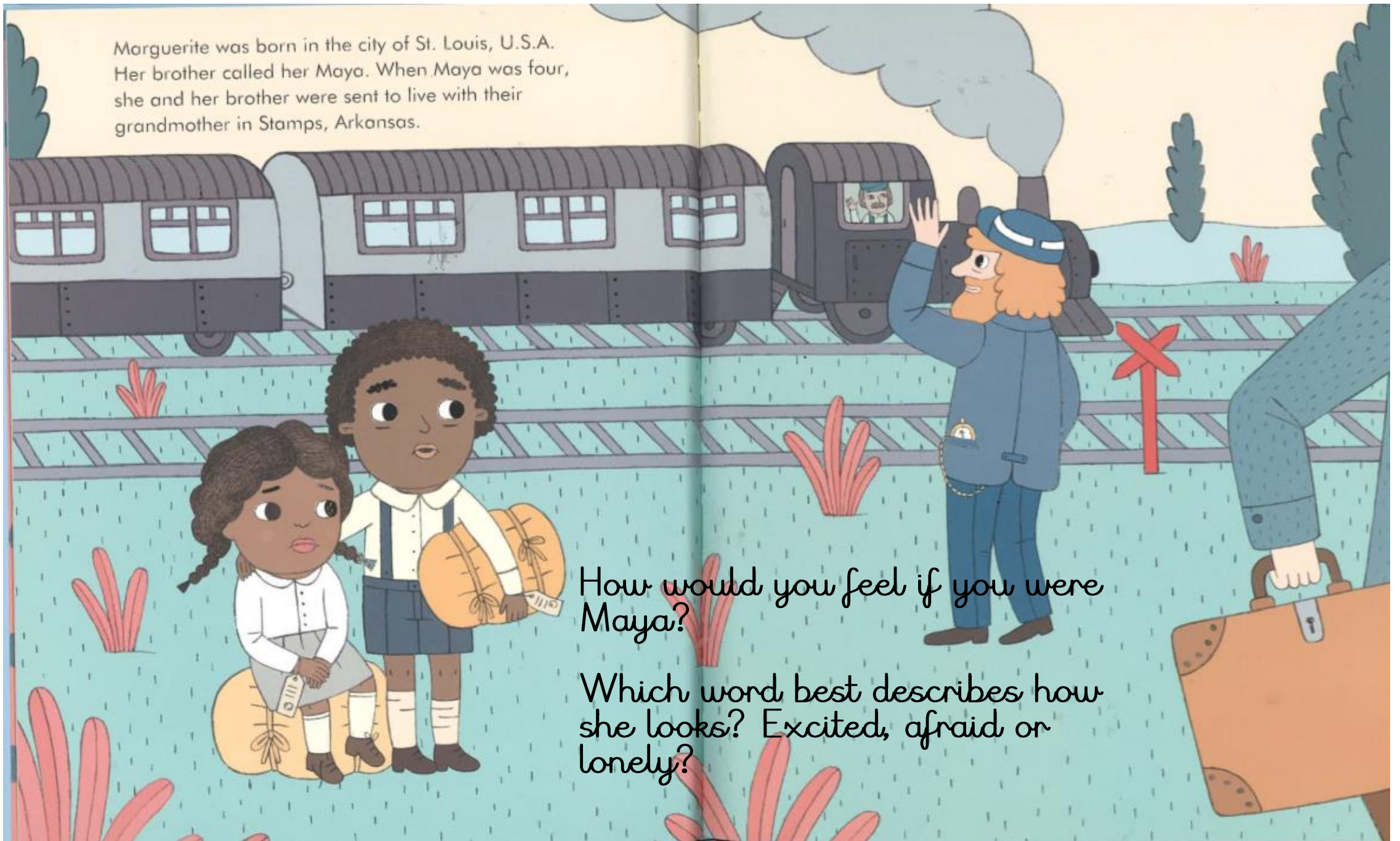
We are going to read about the inspiring story of Maya's life.

As you go through the story, discuss the questions with an adult.

You can also write down your answers on a piece of paper.

Use your best handwriting!

Marguerite was born in the city of St. Louis, U.S.A.
Her brother called her Maya. When Maya was four,
she and her brother were sent to live with their
grandmother in Stamps, Arkansas.



How would you feel if you were
Maya?

Which word best describes how
she looks? Excited, afraid or
lonely?

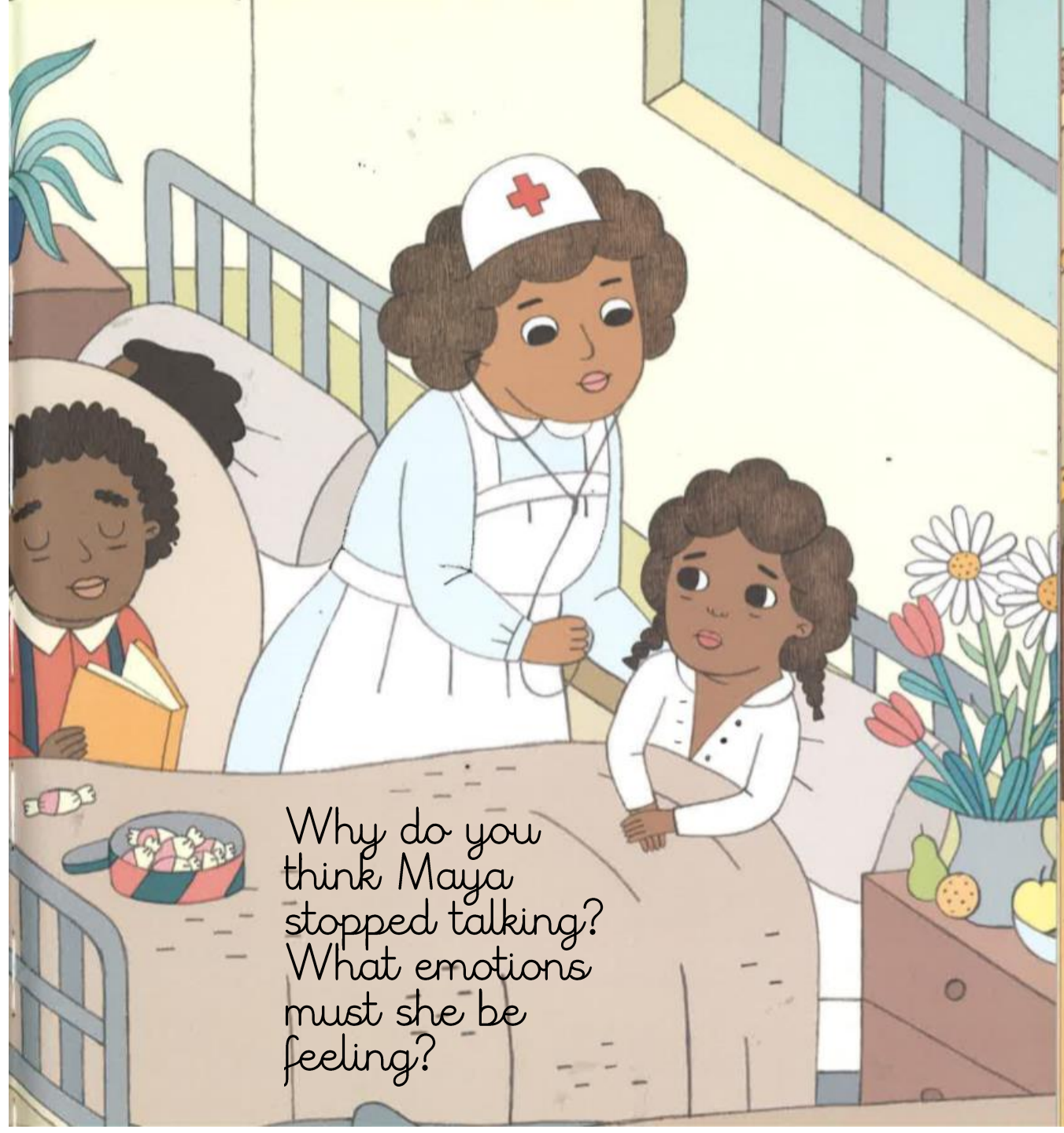


What do you notice in the picture?

What do we call discrimination against colour or race?

Growing up in the South, Maya was treated unfairly because of the colour of her skin and because she was a girl. The world outside was very cruel.

Home was hard too. When Maya was eight, her mother's boyfriend attacked her. Maya was so upset, she stopped talking.

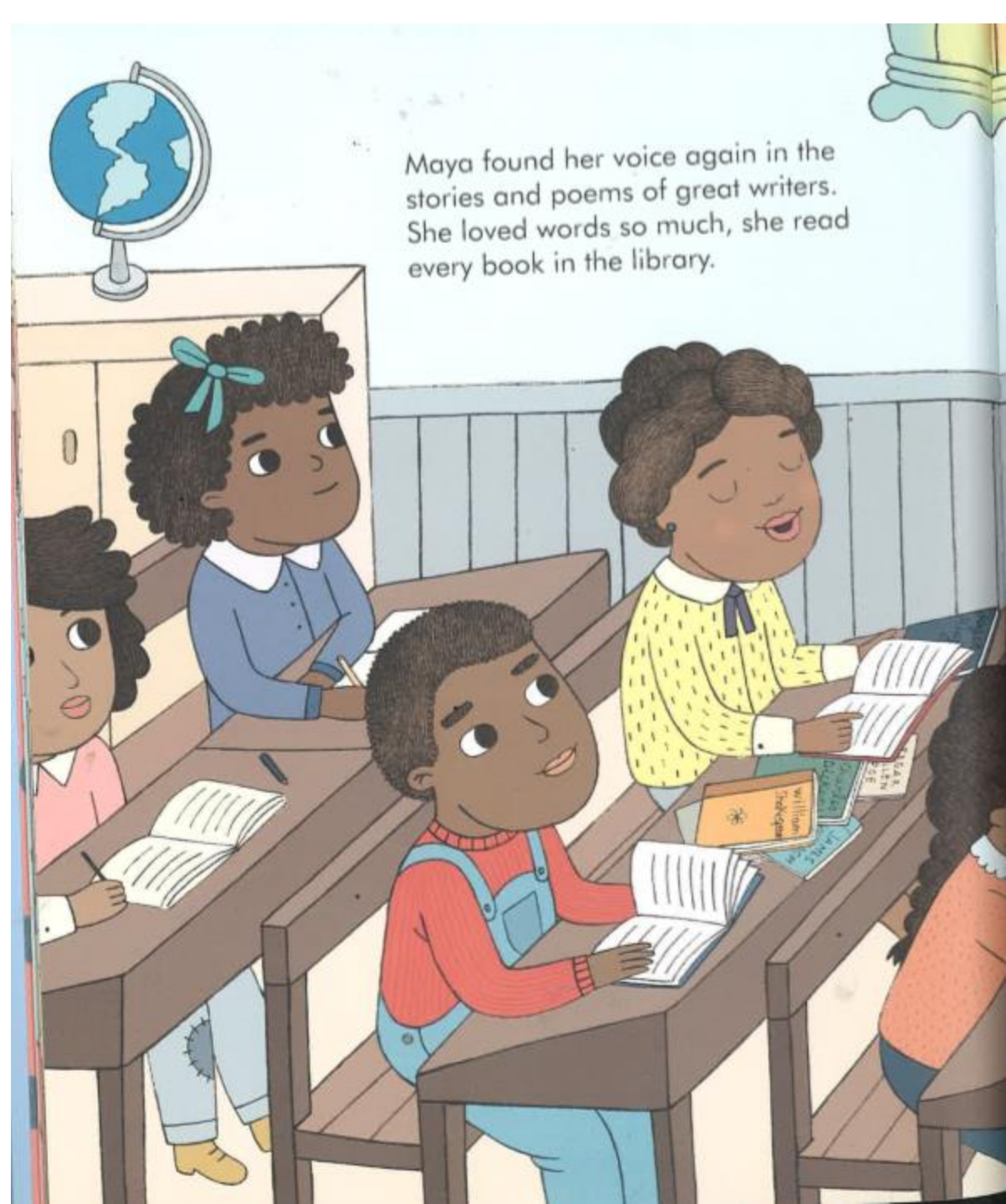


Why do you think Maya stopped talking? What emotions must she be feeling?

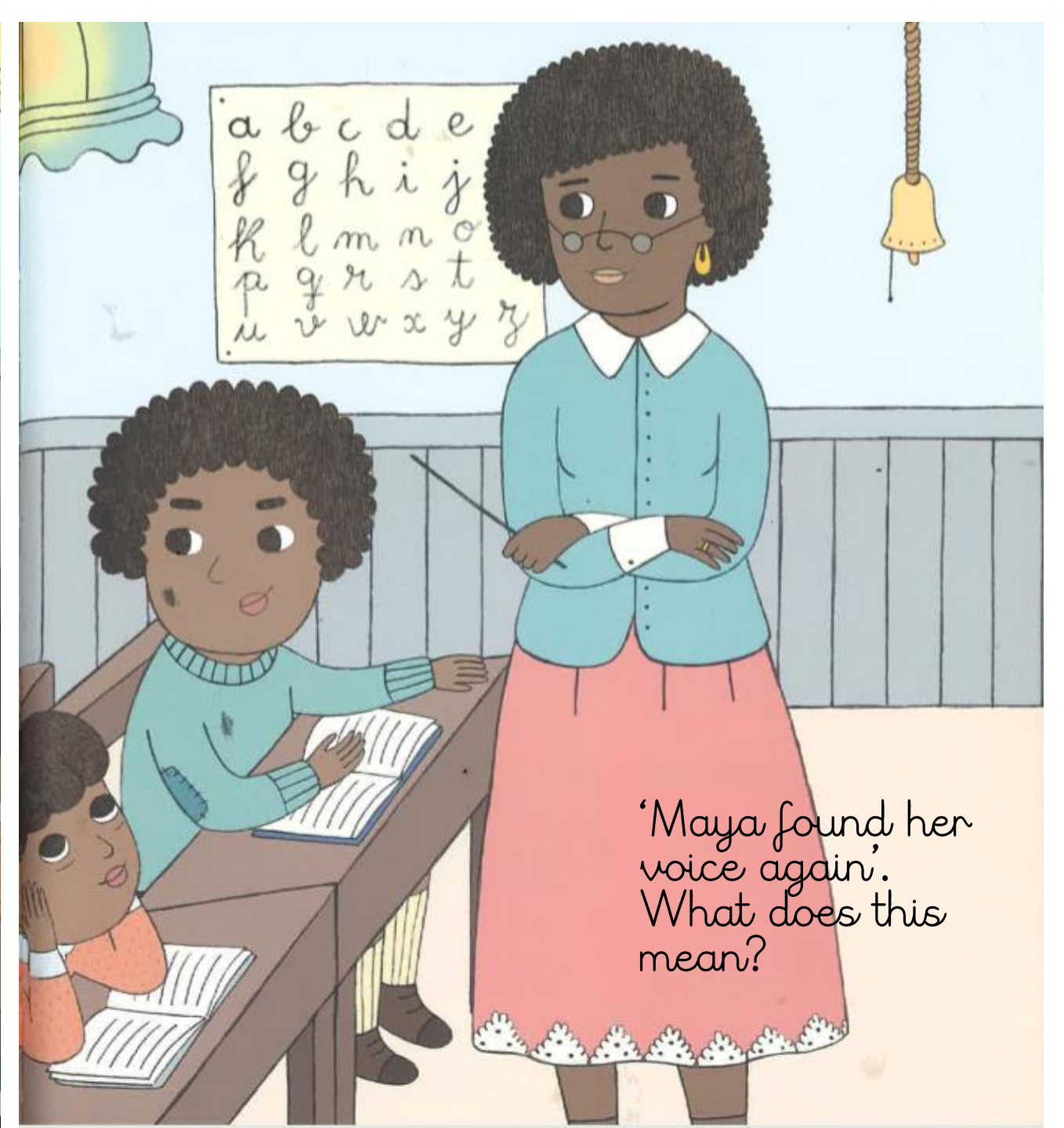


What do you think
will happen next?
Explain the reason
for your prediction

A friend of her grandmother's named Mrs Flowers noticed that Maya was afraid to use her voice. Mrs Flowers showed Maya all kinds of wonderful books, and how the words come alive when you read them out loud.

An illustration of a classroom scene. In the foreground, a young boy with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a red sweater and blue overalls, sits at a wooden desk, looking up and smiling. Behind him, a girl with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a blue dress with a white collar and a small blue bow in her hair, is also looking up. To the left, another girl is partially visible, writing in a book. In the background, a woman with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a yellow sweater with a white collar and a dark bow, is sitting at a desk, looking down at an open book. On the desk in front of her are several books, including one with a bee on the cover. In the top left corner, there is a globe on a stand. The background wall is light blue with a white border.

Maya found her voice again in the stories and poems of great writers. She loved words so much, she read every book in the library.

An illustration of a classroom scene. A teacher with dark skin, curly hair, and glasses, wearing a light blue cardigan over a white collared shirt and a pink skirt with a white lace hem, stands on the right side of the frame. She is holding a thin stick in her right hand. In the foreground, a young boy with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a light blue sweater, sits at a wooden desk, looking up at the teacher. Behind him, a girl with dark skin and curly hair, wearing an orange sweater, is also looking up. On the desk in front of the boy is an open book. In the background, there is a sign on the wall with the alphabet in cursive, and a yellow bell hanging from the ceiling. The background wall is light blue with a white border.

a b c d e
f g h i j
k l m n o
p q r s t
u v w x y z

‘Maya found her voice again’.
What does this mean?

Even though Maya was a great student, she was told that she couldn't get a good job because of the colour of her skin.

What would you have done?

Why is this unfair?



"Lift every voice"

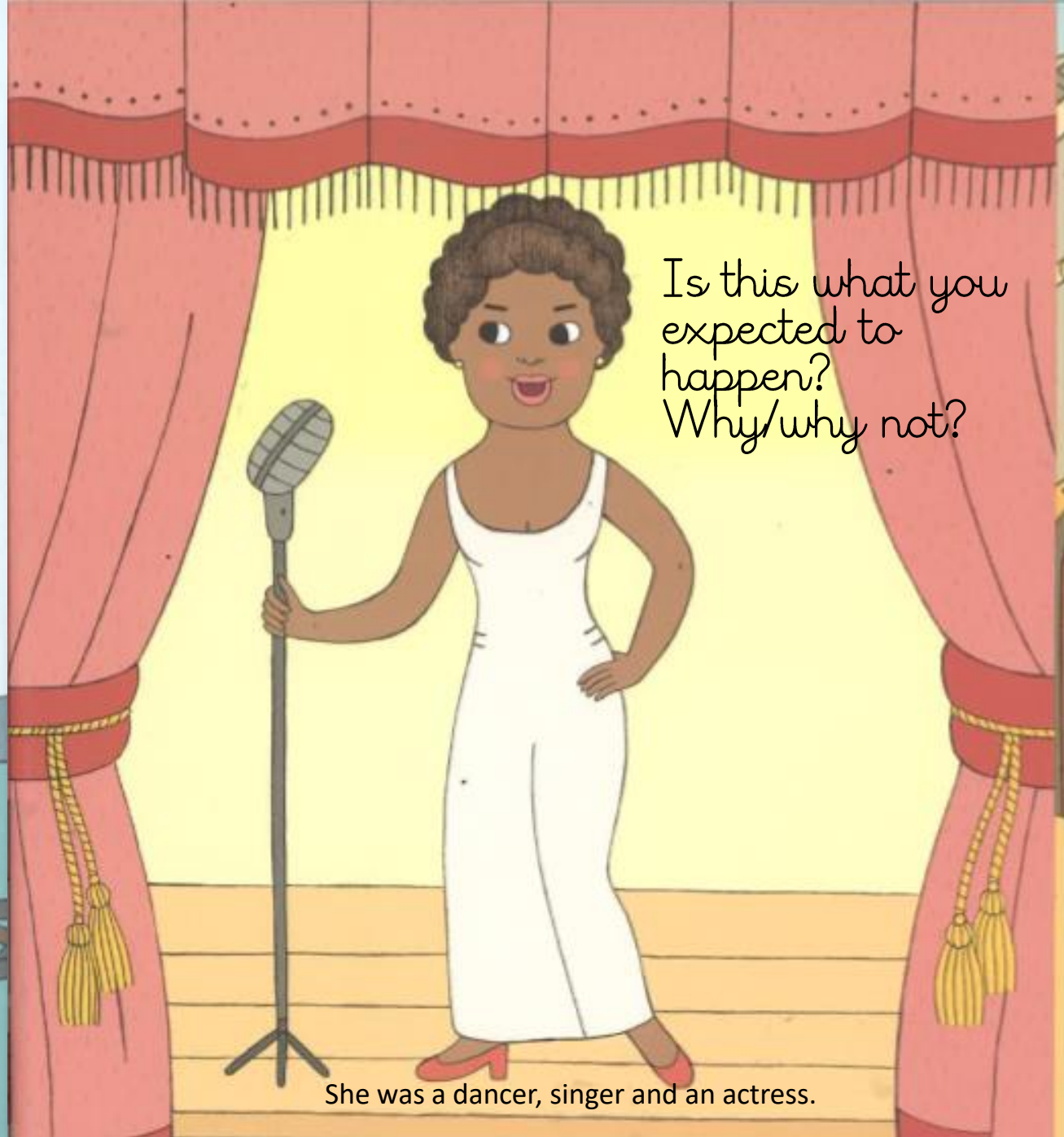
But she had pride and hope. She thought, "There's nothing I can't be."

What is the meaning of 'pride and hope'?





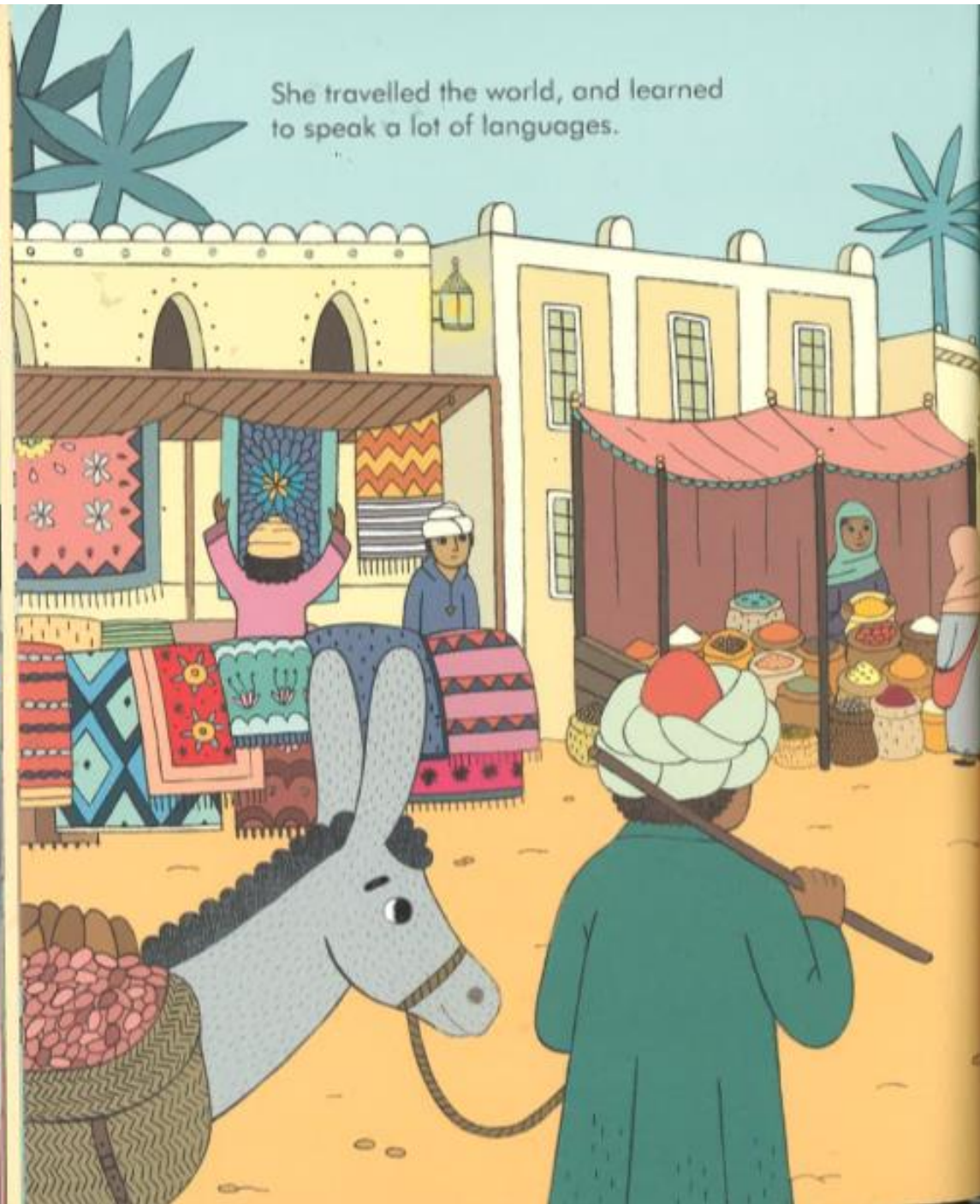
And she was right.
She was a cook and a streetcar conductor.



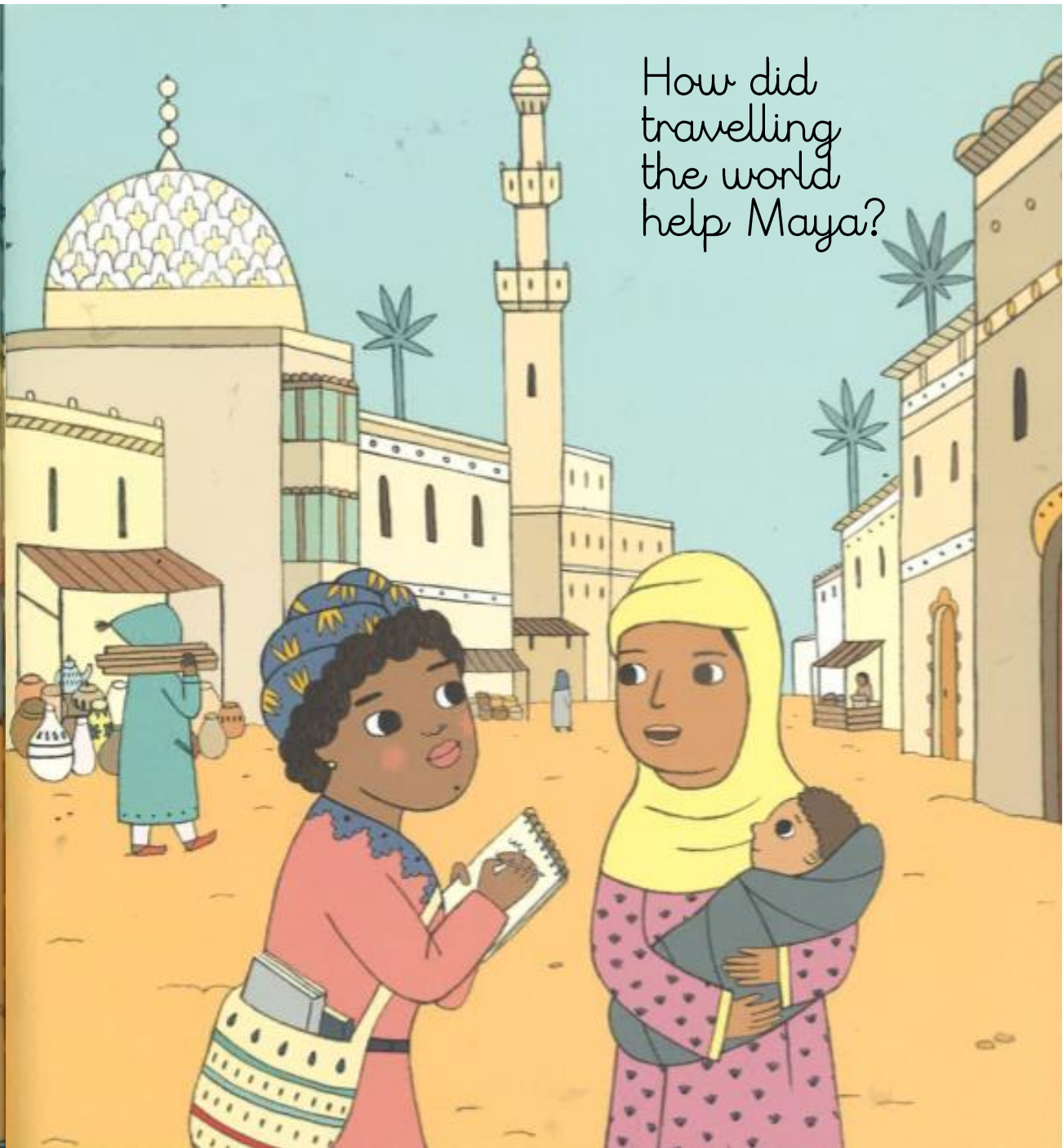
Is this what you
expected to
happen?
Why/why not?

She was a dancer, singer and an actress.

She travelled the world, and learned
to speak a lot of languages.



How did
travelling
the world
help Maya?





At home in America, she worked to help all people get treated equally.

What is equality?

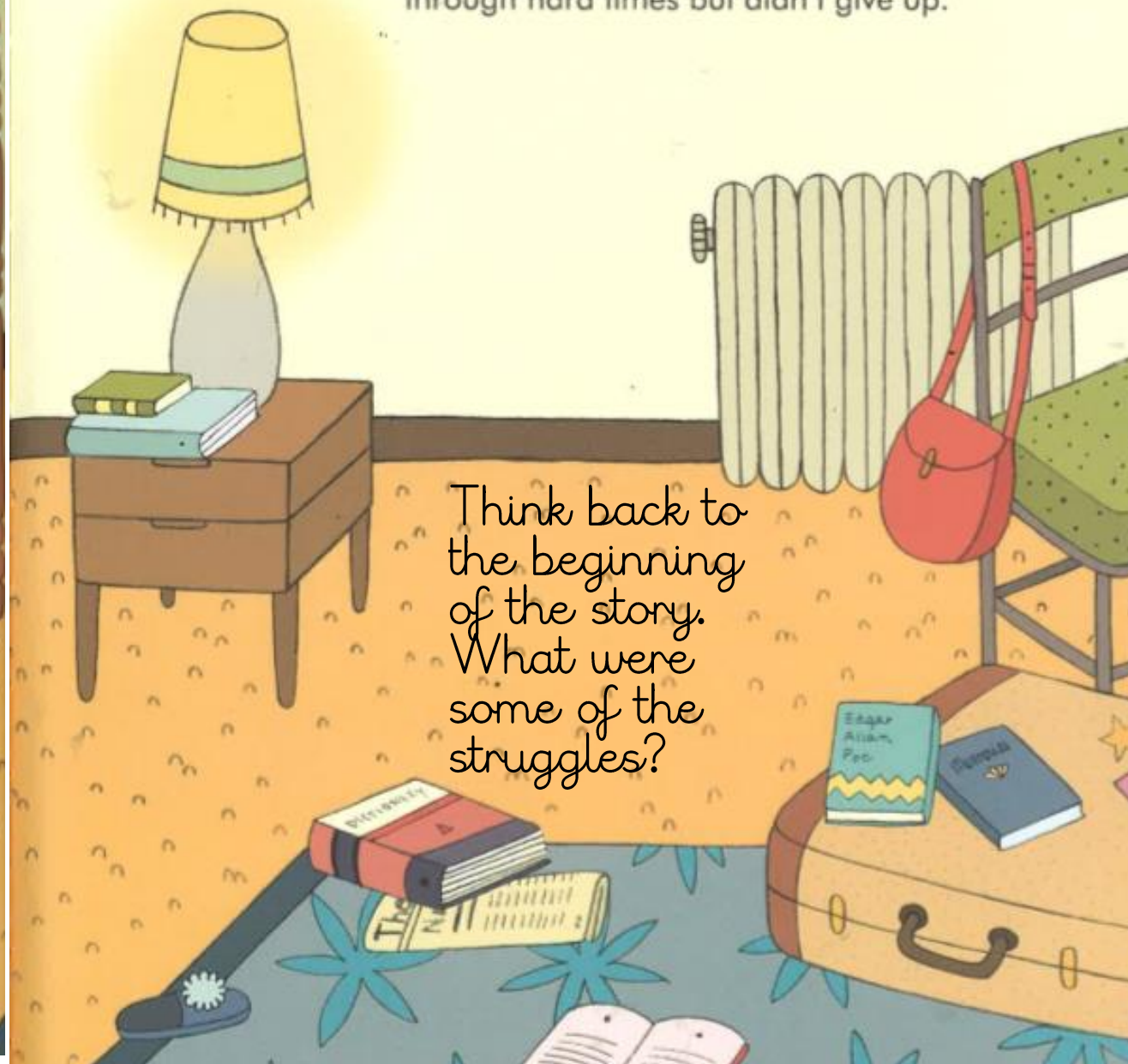
Why is this so important?



It wasn't until Maya was all grown up that she decided she wanted to be a writer. So she began writing a book about her life.



She told the story of a little girl who struggled through hard times but didn't give up.



Think back to the beginning of the story. What were some of the struggles?



People all around the world were moved by her powerful story and her beautiful words.



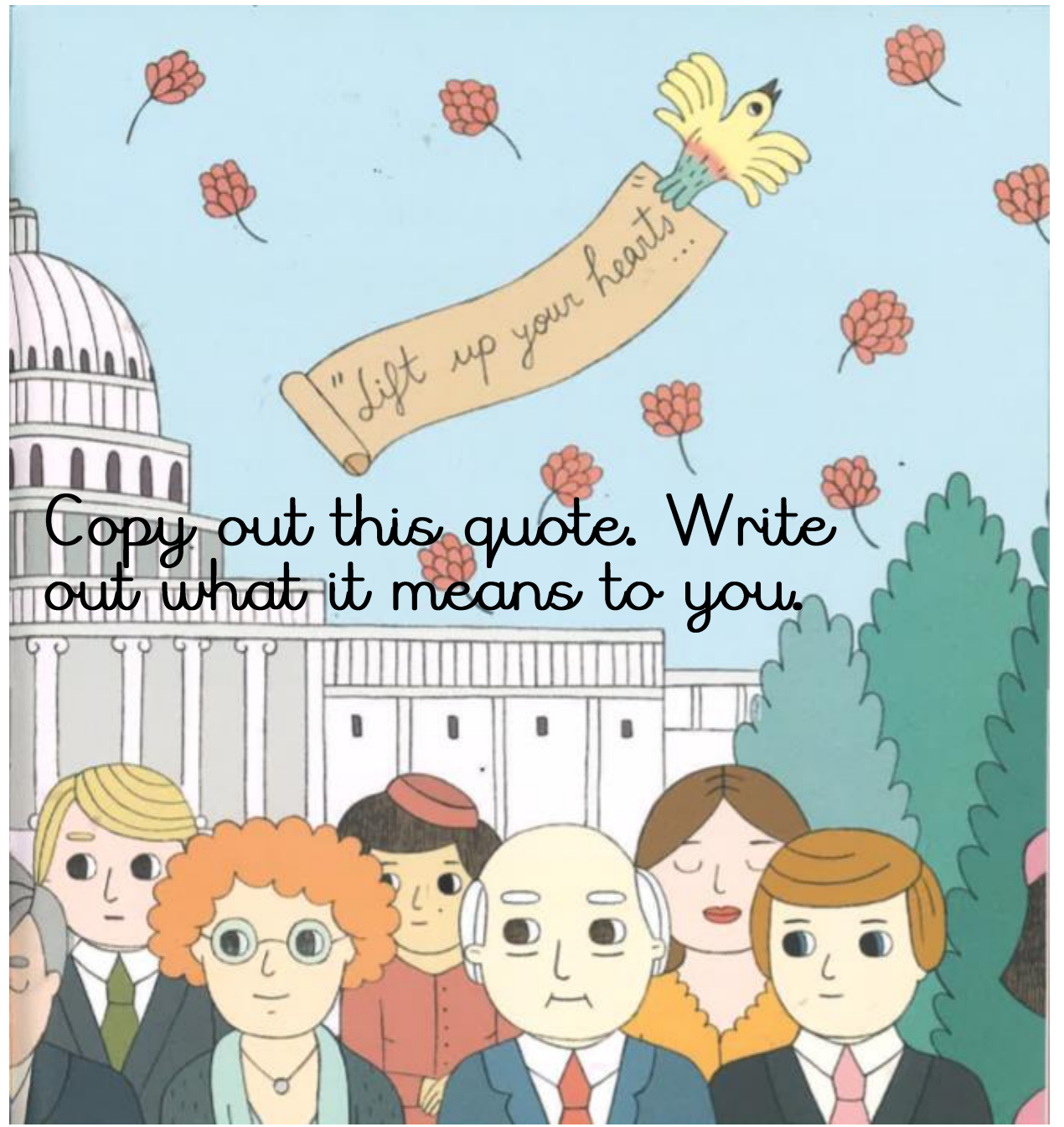
Maya is inspirational.

What does this mean?

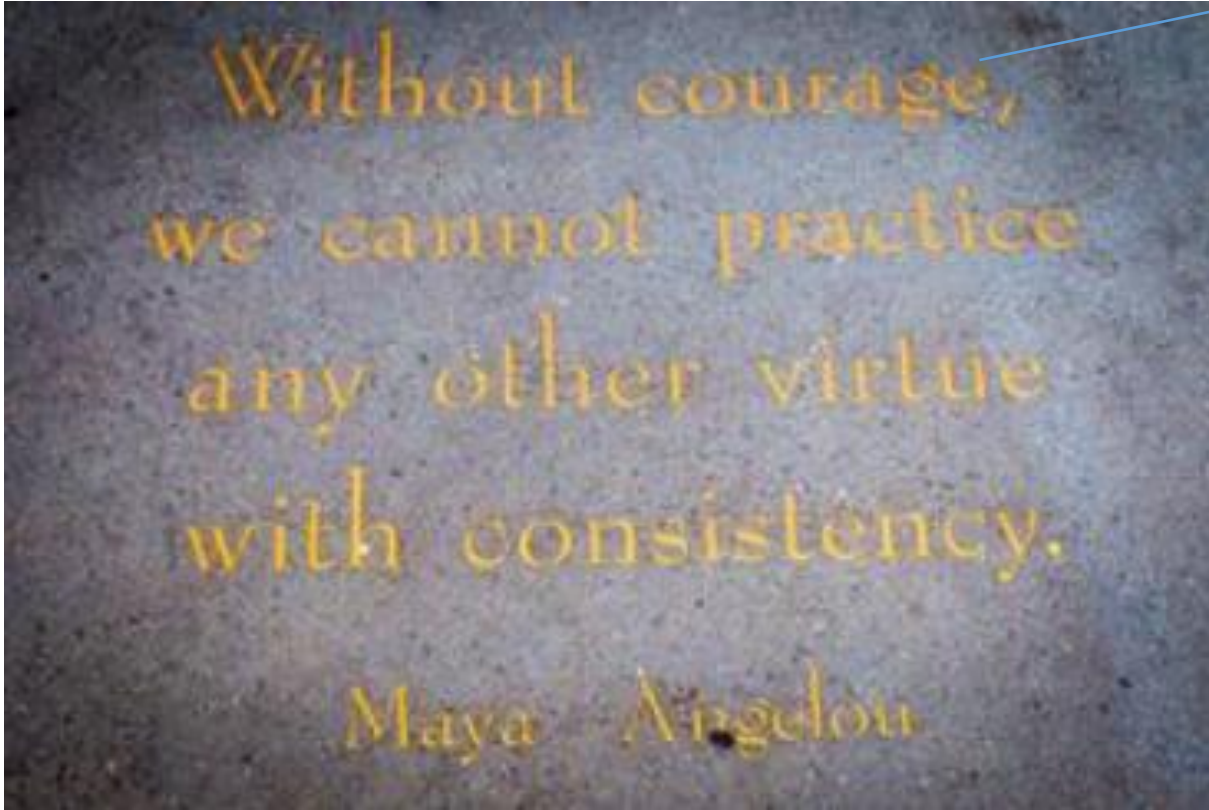
On the day Bill Clinton became president, Maya read a poem. She had once been a little girl who was afraid to use her voice. Now she was speaking to the entire country, about her favourite thing: hope.



Copy out this quote. Write out what it means to you.



Review



What does 'courage' mean?

Think about a time when you have struggled.

Did you show courage?

How can courage help us get past our struggles?