AUTHOR BACKSTORIES

Maya Angelou

Reading list

Every book in order of first publication. Each series is kept together, in reading order, starting where its first book appeared. Tick the box as you finish each one.

31 books · 2 series · List updated November 14, 2026

The autobiographies

Series · 7 books · 1969–2013

Seven volumes, published from 1969 to 2013 and read in that order.

- ☐ 1969 *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
  Book 1 · Memoir
- ☐ 1974 *Gather Together in My Name*
  Book 2 · Memoir
- ☐ 1976 *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas*
  Book 3 · Memoir
- ☐ 1981 *The Heart of a Woman*
  Book 4 · Memoir
- ☐ 1986 *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes*
  Book 5 · Memoir
- ☐ 2002 *A Song Flung Up to Heaven*
  Book 6 · Memoir
- ☐ 2013 *Mom & Me & Mom*
  Book 7 · Memoir

- ☐ 1971 *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diiie*
  Poetry
  Nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.
- ☐ 1975 *Oh Pray My Wings Are Gonna Fit Me Well*
  Poetry
- ☐ 1978 *And Still I Rise*
  Poetry
- ☐ 1983 *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?*
  Poetry
- ☐ 1986 *Mrs. Flowers: A Moment of Friendship*
  Children's book
- ☐ 1987 *Now Sheba Sings the Song*
  Poetry

- [ ] 1990 *I Shall Not Be Moved*
  Poetry
- [ ] 1993 *Life Doesn't Frighten Me*
  Children's book
- [ ] 1993 *On the Pulse of Morning*
  Poetry
  The poem she read at Bill Clinton's 1993 inauguration.
- [ ] 1993 *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*
  Nonfiction
  Her first book of essays.
- [ ] 1994 *My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken, and Me*
  Children's book
- [ ] 1995 *A Brave and Startling Truth*
  Poetry
- [ ] 1995 *Phenomenal Woman: Four Poems Celebrating Women*
  Poetry
- [ ] 1996 *Kofi and His Magic*
  Children's book
- [ ] 1997 *Even the Stars Look Lonesome*
  Nonfiction
- [ ] 2004 *Hallelujah! The Welcome Table: A Lifetime of Memories with Recipes*
  Nonfiction

Maya's World Series · 4 books · 2004

Four picture books published together in 2004.

- [ ] 2004 *Angelina of Italy*
  Children's book
- [ ] 2004 *Izak of Lapland*
  Children's book
- [ ] 2004 *Mikale of Hawaii*
  Children's book
- [ ] 2004 *Renée Marie of France*
  Children's book

- [ ] 2005 *Amazing Peace*
  Poetry
- [ ] 2006 *Mother: A Cradle to Hold Me*
  Poetry
- [ ] 2008 *Letter to My Daughter*
  Nonfiction

- [ ] 2010 *Great Food, All Day Long: Cook Splendidly, Eat Smart*
  Nonfiction