

3.5 "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou

**1 You may write me down in history
2 With your bitter, twisted lies,
3 You may trod me in the very dirt
4 But still, like dust, I'll rise.**

**5 Does my sassiness upset you?
6 Why are you beset with gloom?
7 'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
8 pumping in my living room.**

**9 Just like moons and like suns,
10 With the certainty of tides,
11 Just like hopes springing high,
12 Still I'll rise.**

**13 Did you want to see me broken?
14 Bowed head and lowered eyes?
15 Shoulders falling down like teardrops.
16 Weakened by my soulful cries.**

**17 Does my haughtiness offend you?
18 Don't you take it awful hard
19 'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
20 Diggin' in my own back yard.**

**21 You may shoot me with your words,
22 You may cut me with your eyes,
23 You may kill me with your hatefulness,
24 But still, like air, I'll rise.**

**25 Does my sexiness upset you?
26 Does it come as a surprise
27 That I dance like I've got diamonds
28 At the meeting of my thighs?**

**29 Out of the huts of history's shame
30 I rise
31 Up from a past that's rooted in pain
32 I rise
33 I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
34 Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.**

**35 Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
36 I rise
37 Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
38 I rise
39 Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
40 I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
41 I rise
42 I rise
43 I rise.**

PSJA-ISD
English I
STAAR-LITERATURE

Genre: Poetry

Text: Still I Rise – Maya Angelou

1.B [Use of context clues to determine meaning]

1. Which definition most clearly matches the use of the word *broken* in line 13?

- A** Being severely damaged
 - B** Having given up all hope
 - C** Infringed or violated
 - D** Completely Intact
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7.19B [draw conclusions about the use of sensory language]

2. Stanza 5 of the poem uses imagery to describe

- F.** the distrust of the speaker
 - G.** the confidence of the speaker
 - H.** the change of tone from arrogant to self-assured
 - J.** the speaker's uncertainty to overcome challenges
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3 Fig. 19.B [complex inferences]

3.The poet uses the first stanza to suggest –

- A.** a negative connotation that the rich has created
- B.** the injustice created by the political powers
- C.** a description of the unfairness experienced by minorities throughout history
- D.** the ascent of the minority community

7. Fig.19B [draw conclusions about the use of imagery]

4. Which line from the poem best reflects how the speaker feels toward her oppressors?

F. *Out of the huts of history's shame.*

G. *With your bitter twisted lies.*

H. *Shoulders falling down like teardrops.*

J. *Cause I walk like I've got oil wells.*

2.A [make inferences that relate figurative language in a historical/cultural setting]

5. The civil rights movement is best exemplified in the description of-

A. the poet's use of figurative language to describe the life of minorities

B. the speaker's tone towards becoming rich

C. the speaker's determination to overcome obstacles

D. the poet's fiasco created for the reader

3.FIG19B [infer author's purpose]

6. The poet's repetition of '*I rise*' throughout the poem shows-

F. discrimination and prejudice

G. disgust and peace

H. anger and resolution

J. determination and hope