

Angelou, Maya: 1928 – 2014

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, 1969 – Characters

Maya Angelou (Marguerite Ann Johnson): The narrator and protagonist, a young Black girl growing up with her grandmother.

Bailey Johnson Jr.: Maya's older brother, her closest companion and protector.

Annie Henderson (Momma): Maya and Bailey's paternal grandmother.

Vivian Baxter (Mother Dear): Maya's mother, a beautiful, independent, and spirited woman.

Big Bailey Johnson: Maya's father.

Mr. Freeman: Vivian's live-in boyfriend, who sexually assaults Maya at age eight.

Mrs. Bertha Flowers: A refined, educated Black woman in Stamps who becomes Maya's mentor.

Uncle Willie: Momma's disabled son, who lives with her in Stamps and helps run the store.

Dolores Stockard: Big Bailey's girlfriend in California, whose conflict with Maya pushes her toward independence.

Henry Reed: Maya's classmate.