



Helping you to
deliver an LGBT+

INCLUSIVE
CURRICULUM

Subject: English

Key Stage: 3/4

LGBT+ History Month 2021: MIND, Still I Rise

Original 'The Classroom' concept developed by Schools OUT UK



Schools  **OUT UK**
The **LGBT Education Charity**

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1156352

This lesson was designed as a part of LGBT+ History Month 2021



Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans +
History Month
every February since 2005

2021 Badge: £3

Body, Mind, Spirit

2021: PSHE

Claiming our past, Celebrating our present, Creating our future.

Schools OUT UK, founder of LGBT History Month, is registered in England as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (no. 1156352) www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk

<https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk>



Title: LGBT+ History Month 2021: MIND, Still I Rise

Learning Intentions:

Gain some understanding of who Maya Angelou was and what she stood for.

Recite and perform the poem Still I Rise by Maya Angelou.

Create their own poem to celebrate how others have succeeded in spite of the challenges they faced.

Curriculum links:

KS3 English

Reading

- Reading a wide range of fiction and non-fiction, including in particular whole books, short stories, poems and plays with a wide coverage of genres.

Writing

- Writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences, including: stories, scripts, poetry and other imaginative writing.

Spoken English

- Speak confidently and effectively, including through improvising, rehearsing and performing play scripts and poetry in order to generate language and discuss language use and meaning, using role, intonation, tone, volume, mood, silence, stillness and action to add impact.

KS4 English

Reading

- Reading a wide range of high-quality, challenging, classic literature and extended literary non-fiction, such as essays, reviews and journalism. This writing should include whole texts. The range will include works from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, poetry since 1789, including representative Romantic poetry.

Writing

- Write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information through adapting their writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences: to describe, narrate, explain, instruct, give and respond to information, and argue.



Instructions for use:

Most tasks have been differentiated to three levels with the orange boxed task being the easier of the three and the grey being the more challenging.

For mixed ability classes we suggest keeping all tasks and directing your students towards their appropriate level. For setted classes you can delete the tasks you feel are not appropriate.

Throughout we have added questions in orange that can be used to prompt conversation, draw further information from your students and deepen their understanding.

Please feel free to edit the order of the slides so this lesson is consistent with your approach.

Additional information can be found in the notes section of each slide.

STARTER



What do you know
about Maya
Angelou?

STARTER



Maya Angelou had an incredible and varied career. She was a singer, composer, Hollywood's first female Black director, but she is most remembered for her writing, her poetry and her activism.

Maya Angelou's love of language began when she was young. She is most recognised for her autobiographies but was also a prolific poet.

STARTER



As a civil rights activist, she worked for Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. By 1975 she was recognised by Carol E. Neubauer as “a spokesperson for... all people who are committed to raising the moral standards of living in the United States”.

She embraced the LGBT+ community and on the fight for LGBT+ equality said, “I am aghast and appalled at any people who decide that another group should not have their rights. We are all each other’s people”.

STARTER



In 2010, Barack Obama awarded Angelou with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour in the U.S. And when she passed away Obama described her as ‘a brilliant writer, a fierce friend, and a truly phenomenal woman’, and ‘one of the brightest lights of our time’.

LEARNING INTENTIONS



Title: LGBT+ History Month 2021: MIND, Still I Rise Date: Thursday, 01 February
2024

Gain some understanding of who Maya Angelou was and what she stood for

Recite and perform the poem Still I Rise by Maya Angelou

Create their own poem to celebrate how others have succeeded in spite of the challenges they faced

BIG PICTURE



‘Still I Rise’
How might this be
inspiring?

NEW MATERIAL



Read or listen to 'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou

1. How do you think Angelou felt writing the different verses?
2. What do you think the poem is about?

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

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room

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

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold minds
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise

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

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.



Progress...

NEW MATERIAL



The poem is about the struggle to overcome prejudice and injustice, in particular the racism the Black community has faced.

Progress...

NEW MATERIAL



Although the poem is not written about the LGBT+ community, many LGBT+ people especially those of Colour, are able to find hope in the poem, knowing that no matter what they are faced with they will still rise.



REVIEW AND REFLECT



Many critics have argued that Angelou's poetry is more powerful when it's recited and performed.

Your group will be assigned a verse from Still I Rise.

Work together to create a performance of your verse to reflect the feeling and attitude of the words

REVIEW AND REFLECT



Come back together and perform Still I Rise.
Read the lines starting *I'll/I rise* together.

DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING



How might it feel to be downtrodden, disrespected or discriminated against?

How have LGBT+ people been disrespected before?

How are LGBT+ people discriminated against today?

Give an example of a person who despite the challenges they faced, still rose.

STILL THEY ROSE



Flora Murray

A suffragette and a doctor. Due to being a woman, and sexist attitudes of the time, Flora was initially restricted to working in only children's and women's hospitals. During WWI, alongside her partner Louisa Garrett Anderson, she founded the Women's Hospital Corps, working in France with the Red Cross. After being recognised for their incredible work, the War Office invited Flora and Louisa to run the Endell Street Military Hospital. They treated almost 50,000 soldiers over four years.

STILL THEY ROSE



Bayard Rustin

Bayard Rustin was a gay, civil rights activist, best known for his work as adviser to Martin Luther King Jr. Though he was arrested several times under the LGBTphobic laws of the time and for civil disobedience, he continued to fight for equality. Much of his work was 'behind the scenes' in part due to the public's discomfort with his sexual orientation. In 2013, Bayard was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama.

STILL THEY ROSE



Anne Lister



Living at a time when wealthy women were expected to stay home, sew and learn music, Anne Lister was an educated businessperson, landowner, mountaineer and world traveler. Sent to a girl's boarding school by their mother who couldn't cope with Anne's 'masculine' behaviour, there Anne fell in love with another pupil and began recording their feelings in a coded diary which they would keep for the rest of their life. Aged 43, in 1834, Anne Lister and the woman they loved, Anne Walker, took sacrament in church together and in their eyes they were married. Throughout Anne's life they were faced with abuse and mockery for not fitting what was expected of women during their time and today Anne is celebrated for the same.

STILL THEY ROSE



Lilly Wachowski

Lilly, alongside her sister Lana, is one of the most famed filmmakers of this century with The Matrix trilogy, V for Vendetta, Cloud Atlas and Sense8 to their name. Lilly is a noted film and TV director and producer, screenwriter, comic book writer, and video game director and writer. In 2016, Lilly came out as trans after many media outlets threatened to out her against her will. She has been very open about how privileged she feels to have the support of her friends and family where some trans people do not.

STILL THEY ROSE



Sally Ride

Sally was the first American woman in space. In 1977, she answered a newspaper ad placed by NASA who were seeking young scientists to serve as 'mission specialists'. Sally was one of six women chosen, and Sally made history on 18th June 1983 by being aboard the space shuttle Challenger STS-7. Prior to the launch, Sally was interviewed several times by the media.

Among questions about the training, unlike the men on her team, she was asked how travelling into space would affect her ability to reproduce and what kind of make-up she would take on the mission. In regards to these questions, she later said, "It's too bad this is such a big deal. It's too bad our society isn't further along."



CREATE



Create a verse of poetry from the perspective of an LGBT+ person who couldn't be stopped by the LGBTphobia they faced.

You could write about:

Your own experiences or the experiences of a family member.
Or you could write about an LGBT+ icon that has faced challenges and still they rose.

PERFORM



Perform your piece making sure to emote the feeling and attitude of your words.

REVIEW AND REFLECT



Today,
I have learnt....

I have enjoyed...

Something that has changed for me is...