

Authors Maya Angelou and Laurence Yep: African American and Chinese American Heroes



As you learn about these authors, think about:

What is the same?

- ◆ How they grew up?
- ◆ What they write about?



Maya Angelou

Growing Up:

Born in St. Louis Missouri

Faced a lot of racism in her small, Southern town

Moved to SF when she was 12

Read all the time to cope with a scary world

Her grandma owned the only black-owned grocery store in town, and Maya spent lots of time there as a child

Writes about:

Her most famous book, “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” is about growing up very poor with her grandmother, how books helped her, and the power of words

Cool facts:

Became San Francisco’s first black streetcar conductor

Civil Rights activist & friends with MLK and Malcolm X



Still I Rise

- How did she grow up?
- What did she write about?

Maya Angelou



Laurence Yep

Growing Up:

Born in San Francisco

"I was too American to fit into Chinatown, and too Chinese to fit in anywhere else."

Grew up in a mostly African American neighborhood

Writes about:

His most famous books are historical fiction about the Chinese American experience. He also writes fantasy, Chinese mythology, science fiction and plays

Cool facts:

Was 18 when his first story was published

Many of his books are set in San Francisco





- How did he grow up?
- What did he write about?

Laurence Yep





Shadows on the
wall
Noises down
the hall
Life doesn't
frighten me at
all

- What did you hear?
- What did you feel?

Life Doesn't Frighten Me

Poem by: Maya Angelou

Paintings by: Jean-Michel Basquiat



What is the same about you?

- ◆ 1. How are you growing up?
- ◆ 2. What do you want to write about?
- ◆ 3. What doesn't frighten you?

As you listen to your classmates, use your Zoom reactions to give a 👍 when you hear something you have in common!





You can learn to change the world or
go on being changed by it.

— *Laurence Yep* —

*I can be changed by
what happens to me.
But I refuse to be reduced by it.*



Share out loud or in the chat:
“What is the same?”

1. How they grew up?
2. What they write about?
3. What doesn't frighten them?



Circle Guidelines

Anything you'd like to add?

- **Respect the talking piece:** everyone listens, everyone has a turn
- **Speak from the heart:** your truth, your perspectives, your experiences
- **Listen from the heart:** let go of stories that make it hard to hear each other
- **Trust that you will know what to say:** no need to rehearse
- **Say just enough:** without feeling rushed, be concise and considerate of the time of others.
- **Confidentiality:** what is said in this room stays in this room



Circle Process



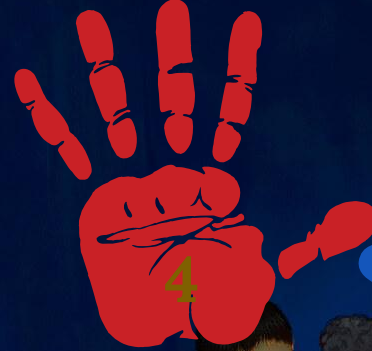
People will answer in the chat or on the mic



People who wrote publicly in the chat will have a chance to read their comment out loud



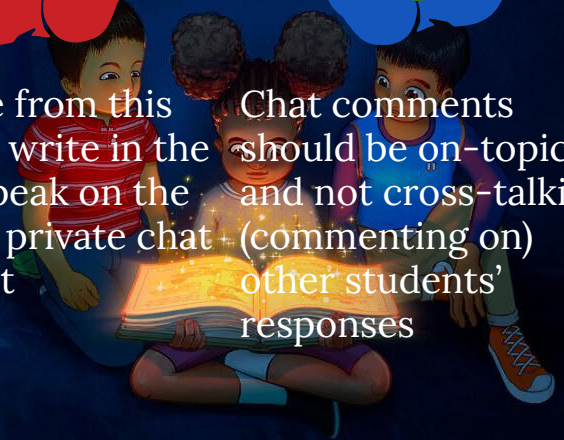
Anyone who hasn't written something will be added to the list we want to hear from



Anyone from this list can write in the chat, speak on the mic, or private chat an adult



Chat comments should be on-topic, and not cross-talking (commenting on) other students' responses





Laurence Yep on helping his dad at their grocery store

