

# ANGELOU'S CHILDREN'S BOOKS

1986

In "Mrs. Flowers: A Moment of Friendship," Angelou weaves a children's book about her admiration for her grade schoolteacher. Angelou writes in depth about Mrs. Flowers in "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," including about how the woman helped her to come out of her shell. The book is illustrated by Etienne Delessert.

1993

*Shadows on the wall  
Noises down the hall  
Life doesn't frighten me  
at all  
Bad dogs barking loud  
Big ghosts in a cloud  
Life doesn't frighten me  
at all.*

That is the first stanza of Maya Angelou's classic poem, "Life Doesn't Frighten Me at All." The poem was turned into a popular kids' book, featuring illustrations by world-renowned artist Jean-Michel Basquiat.



1994

In "My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken, and Me," Angelou tells a charming tale of a South African girl and how she is influenced by the grand artistic tradition of her people. The full-color book features photographic illustrations by Margaret Courtney-Clarke.

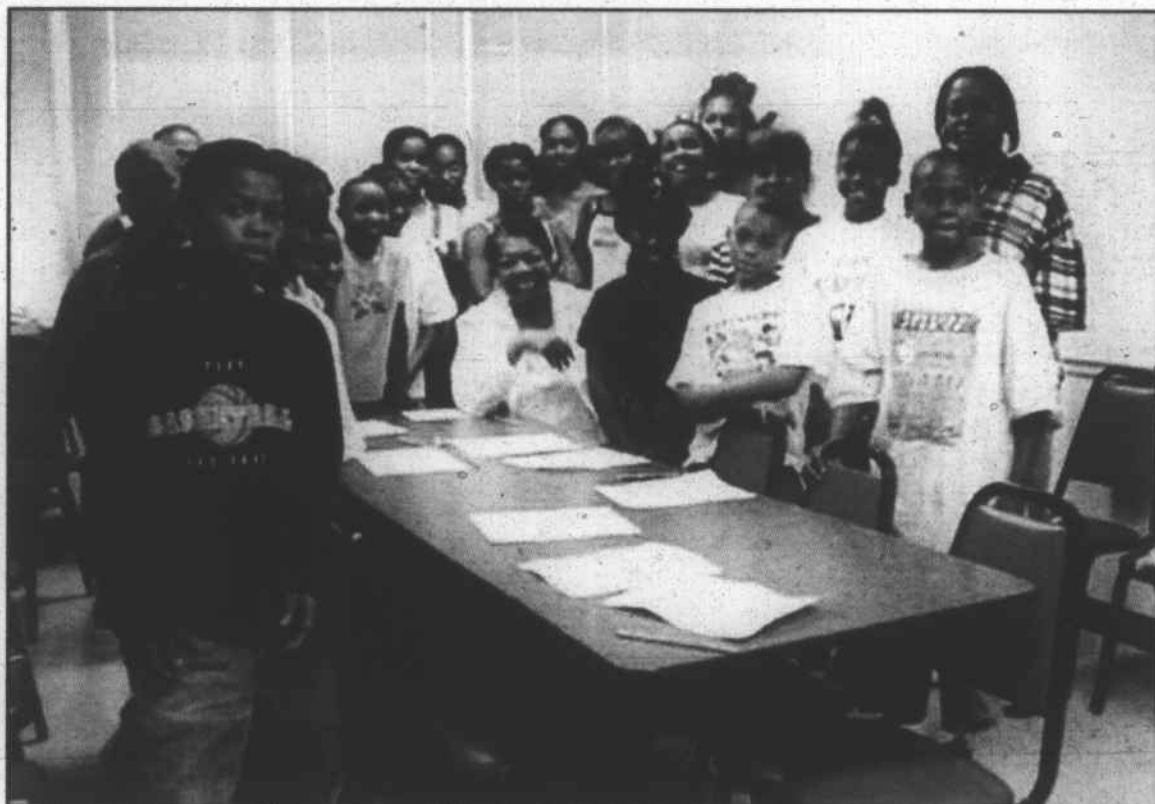


1996

In "Kofi and His Magic," Angelou creates another classic of youth literature. The story focuses on Kofi, a West African boy who uses his "magic" (his imagination) to take many memorable journeys. The book's color photographs are by Margaret Courtney-Clarke.

2004

Angelou began publishing a series of books for young adults called "Maya's World." Illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell, the books feature young characters from around the world. Some of the titles of the books in the series are: "Angelina of Italy," "Mikale of Hawaii" and "Renee Marie of France."



Dr. Angelou sits among the group of Mt. Zion Baptist Church youngsters.

Photo courtesy of Rev. Churn/Mt. Zion

## MY FAVORITE DR. ANGELOU MOMENT



Pastor Churn

Dr. Angelou came to church to go over a project with me. We met in the church's library, however; the mellifluous voices of the children in summer camp could be heard. I noticed that Dr. Angelou seemed anxious to conclude the meeting. As soon as the meeting ended, she had business with those

children.

She is drawn ineluctably by her mother's heart to students and especially children. The children shared with her their love for rap music and the names of their favorite songs and artists. She shared with them the historical roots of their music and the poets who laid the foundation for their beloved rap. It was priceless and precious to hear the scholar/actor/director/writer/dancer/polyglot/humanitarian rap with those children.

This was a majestic, magical moment when a master teacher, who knew how to make learning fun and meaningful, introduced our children to the power and beauty of the spoken and written word. This was a holy, sacred moment between students and teacher, mentor and disciples. In this hollowed

### Reflections from Friends & Neighbors



time, love, learning and legacy were inscribed in the very hearts of our children. No press recorded this awesome moment, but it was indeed recorded in the tender, eager minds of the next generation of thinkers, writers and scholars. This is the Dr. Maya Angelou I have come to know and love. Our world is a better place because of her 80 years of loving, lifting and leading us all into a world of mutual respect.

The Rev. Dr. Serenus T. Churn Sr., is the pastor and CEO of Mount Zion Baptist Church of Winston-Salem. Maya Angelou attends the church and Churn is her longtime pastor.