



▲ Award-winning American writer Maya Angelou

Now look at each verse and comment on its purpose and how it contributes to the overall structure.

VERSE	PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE
1	Offers a direct challenge to the audience and establishes the theme. The construction, 'You may...', lists the different types of injustice that the speaker has had to face, while the emphatic statement, 'I'll rise', suggests that she will overcome these injustices. It is a structural feature that will be repeated in the poem.
2	Questions the audience. It establishes the overall structural feature of questioning followed by an assertion of strength and superiority.
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	'I rise' is given in separate lines to ...
9	

ACTIVITY 2

A01

A04

SKILLS

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS,
NEGOTIATION

▼ FREEDOM AS A RIGHT OR A DUTY

Many people believe that the right to be free is one of the most important rights that human beings have, and some feel that it is everyone's duty to ensure that every person in the world is free. Do you agree? Discuss your reasons why or why not.