

The Power of Voice: Gender-based Violence and Resilience in Maya Angelou's Poetry

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Maya Angelou's poetry stands as a powerful testament to the resilience of women in the face of gender-based violence. Maya Angelou's poetry profoundly addresses the theme of gender-based violence, capturing the complexities of women's experiences and their resilience. In her notable works, she explores the emotional and physical scars inflicted by oppression while also celebrating the strength and survival of women. The analysis of Maya Angelou's poetry, particularly in works like 'Still I Rise', 'Phenomenal Woman', 'Woman Work' and 'Our Grandmothers' illuminates the themes of gender-based violence and celebrates the resilience of women. These poems celebrate the strength and defiance of women in the face of oppression, emphasizing self-worth and the multifaceted roles they play. This paper delves into how Angelou's powerful verses not only confront the harsh realities of oppression but also embody a spirit of strength and empowerment that resonates deeply with women.

Through powerful imagery and personal narratives, Angelou honours women's struggles, connecting their historical experiences to contemporary issues of empowerment and survival. Her legacy continues to inspire those who challenge societal norms surrounding violence against women. Through her poetry, Angelou not only gives voice to the pain of gender-based violence but also inspires hope and strength, delivering a powerful message to women.

Keywords: Resilience, Oppression, Historical struggle, Identity, Self-worth, Hope