

Life Doesn't Frighten Me

Maya Angelou

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

Mean old Mother Goose
Lions on the loose
They don't frighten me at all

Dragons breathing flame
On my counterpane
That doesn't frighten me at all.

I go boo
Make them shoo
I make fun
Way they run
I won't cry
So they fly
I just smile
They go wild

Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Tough guys fight
All alone at night
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Panthers in the park
Strangers in the dark
No, they don't frighten me at all.

That new classroom where
Boys all pull my hair
(Kissy little girls
With their hair in curls)
They don't frighten me at all.

Don't show me frogs and snakes
And listen for my scream,
If I'm afraid at all
It's only in my dreams.

I've got a magic charm
That I keep up my sleeve
I can walk the ocean floor
And never have to breathe.

Life doesn't frighten me at all
Not at all
Not at all.

Life doesn't frighten me at all.



Literacy Carousel KS3

Session 2.

1. Read the text twice.
2. Highlight anything you do not understand.
3. Highlight a use of repetition
4. Highlight a use of imagery
5. In the 9th stanza ("I've got a magic charm..." how does the imagery contrast with the rest of the poem?)
6. Highlight a use alliteration
7. Highlight a rhyme
8. Highlight a use of enjambement
9. Choose adjectives to describe the rhythm:

Jumpy	Flowing
Fast	Slow

10. Does the rhythm change at any point?
11. What do you notice about Angelou's use of pronouns?
12. How does Angelou create a defiant and optimistic tone through her use of poetic language?