# E-Content

# **American Literature**

Semester: III

Lecture 19

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**Course Code: ENG2012 Course Name: American Literature** 

## **COURSE CONTENT UNIT-IV**

Lecture 19: Maya Angelou: 'Still I Rise'

- •And Still I Rise is author Maya Angelou's third volume of poetry, published by Random House in 1978. It was published during one of the most productive periods in Angelou's career; she had written three autobiographies and published two other volumes of poetry up to that point.
- •The given poem is taken from the book.

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•And Still I Rise is made up of 32 short poems, divided into three parts. The poems' themes focus on a hopeful determination to rise above difficulty and discouragement, and on many of the same topics as Angelou's autobiographies and previous volumes of poetry.

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•Two of her most well-known and popular poems,
"Phenomenal Woman" and "Still I Rise", are found in this
volume. She speaks for her race and gender in many of the
poems, and again emphasizes the strength and resiliency of her
community. Like her previous volumes of poetry, the reviews of

And Still I Rise were mixed.

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POEM

You may write me down in history

With your bitter, twisted lies,

You may trod me in the very dirt

But still, like dust, I'll rise.

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Does my sassiness upset you?

Why are you beset with gloom?

'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells

Pumping in my living room.

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## **COURSE CONTENT UNIT-IV**

Just like moons and like suns,

With the certainty of tides,

Just like hopes springing high,

Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?

Bowed head and lowered eyes?

Shoulders falling down like teardrops,

Weakened by my soulful cries?

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## **COURSE CONTENT UNIT-IV**

Does my haughtiness offend you?

Don't you take it awful hard

'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines

Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,

You may cut me with your eyes,

You may kill me with your hatefulness,

But still, like air, I'll rise.

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## **COURSE CONTENT UNIT-IV**

Does my sexiness upset you?

Does it come as a surprise

That I dance like I've got diamonds

At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame

I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain

I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,

Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

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## **COURSE CONTENT UNIT-IV**

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear

I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear

I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,

I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise

I rise

I rise.

**Program Name: B.A. English** 

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#### **COURSE CONTENT UNIT-IV**

Reference Page

https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46446/still-i-rise