

Maya Angelou
On Aging
Some more challenging questions!

Worksheet by:
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1. "When you see me walking, stumbling,
Don't study and get it wrong.
'Cause tired don't mean lazy
And every goodbye ain't gone."
 - What is the significance of the words, "Don't study and get it wrong"? (4)
 - What would people usually think when they saw someone "walking, stumbling"? (4)
 - What does the person mean when she says, "And every goodbye ain't gone"? (2)

2. "I'm the same person I was back then,
A little less hair, a little less chin,
A lot less lungs and much less wind.
But ain't I lucky I can still breathe in."
 - How could the aging person be "the same person I was back then"? (4)
 - Comment on the words, "But ain't I lucky I can still breathe in." Why does the poet not use a question mark? (4)

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

3. "Climax" is a language device which is used to enhance the meaning and power of poetry.
 - What is meant by "climax"? (2)
 - Explain the poet's use of climax in the final four lines of this poem. (4)

4. Does the poet paint a positive or a negative picture of old age? Explain. (4)

5. The poet is an African American. How does she reveal this within the poem? (4)

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