

"When I Lay My Burden Down" by Maya Angelou

Reading Check

- 1) List all the things you know about the setting of this incident.
- 2) How do the "powhitetrash" children behave in this story?
- 3) What is the narrator's reaction as the rude girls insult her grandmother?
- 4) What is Momma's response to the insult?

Discussion Questions

- 1) What does Angelou mean when she says, “Whatever the contest had been out front, I knew Momma had won?” Do you agree? Why, or why not?
- 2) Angelou takes some time to tell us about what is considered good behavior and courtesy in her family. What was her purpose for doing this? How does she want you to feel about her family’s rules?