



# TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER  
TOLERANCE.ORG

## BEYOND ROSA PARKS

# Images of “Still I Rise”

Authors often use imagery to create comparisons between literal and figurative elements, add depth and understanding to a literary piece, and evoke a more meaningful experience for the reader. Examining Maya Angelou’s masterful use of imagery throughout the poem “Still I Rise” can help you understand and interpret the poem’s theme and message.

1. Read “Still I Rise” in its entirety. It can be found online at [poets.org/poetsorg/poem/still-i-rise](https://poets.org/poetsorg/poem/still-i-rise).
2. Use a highlighter to identify examples of imagery in the poem. This can include similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole and onomatopoeia.
3. Divide into small groups. Each group should select one of the poem’s stanzas to analyze.
4. In the chart below, list each example of imagery in your stanza, the type of imagery used and what you believe each element of imagery represents in the poem’s theme.

IMAGERY INTERPRETATION FROM STANZA # <input type="text"/>		
Word/Phrase from Stanza	Type of Imagery	What the Imagery Represents