LAURENCE KING

Published in 2019
by Laurence King Publishing Ltd
361–373 City Road
London EC1V 1LR
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 20 7841 6900
E-mail: enquiries@laurenceking.com
www.laurenceking.com

Illustrations © 2019 Noa Snir

Written by Danielle Jawando

This book was designed and produced by Laurence King Publishing Ltd, London. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-78627-506-6

Design concept: Charlotte Bolton
Design: The Urban Ant
Series title designed by Anke Weckmann

Printed in China

Laurence King Publishing is committed to ethical and sustainable production. We are proud participants in The Book Chain Project
bookchainproject.com

BOOK CHAIN PROJECT

Other *Little Guides to Great Lives*:
Marie Curie
Charles Darwin
Leonardo da Vinci
Amelia Earhart
Anne Frank
Stephen Hawking
Frida Kahlo
Ferdinand Magellan
Nelson Mandela

Little Guides to Great Lives

MAYA ANGELOU



Written by
Danielle Jawando

Illustrations by
Noa Snir

Laurence King Publishing



Maya Angelou was an African-American author, poet, playwright and civil rights activist. She wrote seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and a long list of plays, films and television shows.

Her story is a rich and remarkable one – a tale filled with strength, hardship and hope. Maya learned the importance of using her own voice to help others and change the world!

Marguerite Annie Johnson was born on 4 April 1928 in a large city called St. Louis, in Missouri, America. It was a place that was full of tall buildings, busy roads and jazz clubs. Marguerite lived with her mum Vivian, her dad Bailey and her big brother, Bailey Jr.

It was Bailey who first gave Marguerite the name 'Maya', after trying to say 'my sister' when they were younger.



Things soon became hard at home. Maya's parents began to argue more and more, and they decided to get a divorce. Maya and Bailey were sent to live with their Grandma Annie, in a place called Stamps, Arkansas. Maya had never even left St. Louis or been on a train, and Stamps was over 400 miles away from home!



five years.

for almost

silent

stayed

Maya



Even though this was a time of great sadness for Maya, it was also when she started to develop her unique talents and skills. These included an extraordinary memory, a love of books and a limitless imagination. Maya learned poetry by heart so that she would never be bored. She existed in her own bubble of words and language.

