

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Tree



**Introduction:** In Maya Angelou's inaugural poem, "On the Pulse of Morning," natural elements symbolize how diverse groups of Americans can come together and make this a better country. The symbols are a rock, a river, and a tree.

**Directions:** Use the words beneath the tree to highlight both the diversity and commonalities within the human family. Then, write your own poem, slogan or statement expressing your hopes for peace and indicating the role you can play in achieving peace. To help plan your composition, think of the functions of the roots, trunk, branches, and leaves. Then, think about the many concerns people have regarding the need to better human relationships.

Based upon your understanding of Maya Angelou's poem, develop your own description of how peace can be spread throughout society. Use some of the symbols and words that convey human concern to create your composition.

In Maya Angelou's poem, focus on the real functions of a tree, and what each part of the tree symbolizes in human relationships.

TREE ROOTS \_\_\_\_\_

TREETRUNKS \_\_\_\_\_

TREE BRANCHES \_\_\_\_\_

TREE LEAVES \_\_\_\_\_

Think of why the following facts should lead all human beings to work together to achieve peace:

- Many difference races and cultures in society
- Many different places of birth
- Common needs, hope, and dreams
- Common Earthly home and related dependence upon it
- Desire to leave a legacy for future generations.

Write your own composition. Try to use elements of nature as symbols (birds, trees, water, land, etc).



Symbols and Words of Human Concern

Frowns Fear Anger Courage Smiles Compassion Love Tolerance  
Right Wrong Caring Feelings Hope Attitude Acceptance Listening  
Bias Violence Joy Rejection Heart Human Despair Pride Equality  
Humiliation Life Change Conflict Peace Diversity Dreams Promise  
Commonalties Morality Forgiveness Availability Jealousy Goals  
Peer pressure Truth Privilege

MY IDEAS FOR SPREADING TOLERANCE, RESPECT, EQUALITY AND PEACE

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