

Life Doesn't Frighten Me

Shadows on the wall
Noises down the hall
Life doesn't frighten me at all
Bad dogs barking loud
Big ghosts in a cloud
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Mean old Mother Goose
Lions on the loose
They don't frighten me at all
Dragons breathing flame
On my counterpane
That doesn't frighten me at all.

I go boo
Make them shoo
I make fun
Way them run
I won't cry
So they fly
I just smile
They go wild
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Tough guys in a fight
All alone at night
Life doesn't frighten me at all.
Panthers in the park
Strangers in the dark
No, they don't frighten me at all.

That new classroom where
Boys all pull my hair
(Kissy little girls
With their hair in curls)
They don't frighten me at all.

Don't show me frogs and snakes
And listen for my scream,
If I'm afraid at all
It's only in my dreams.

I've got a magic charm
That I keep up my sleeve,
I can walk the ocean floor
And never have to breathe.

Life doesn't frighten me at all
Not at all
Not at all
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Maya Angelou

Activity 4

At some time in our lives, particularly when we were very young, most of us have felt very frightened. Often such fears were associated with darkness, such as walking home after dark, a pitch black bedroom and unfamiliar shadows. Fears may also arise at other times and other places, such as when we are in high places, or confronted with spiders or snakes, for example.

continued

Activity 4 – *continued*

- With a friend, talk about occasions when you have felt really scared, then read Maya Angelou's poem. Talk about the fears in the poem and the way they are overcome.

Notice how the first two verses are constructed: two rhyming lines about the fears followed by the phrase 'Life doesn't frighten me at all.' This pattern is then repeated, after which, in verse three, the fears are banished in a series of short rhyming lines.

- Write your own poem in this pattern, using Maya Angelou's title and repeating it every few lines as she has done.

Serious Luv

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Monday Morning

I really luv de girl dat's sitting next to me
I think she thinks like me and she's so cool,
I think dat we could live for ever happily
I want to marry her when I leave school.

She's de only one in school allowed to call me Ben
When she does Maths I luv de way she chews her pen,
When we are doing Art she's so artistic
In Biology she makes me heart beat so quick.

When we do Geography I go to paradise
She's helped me draw a map of Borneo twice!
Today she's going to help me to take me books home
So I am going to propose to her when we're alone.

The next day

I used to luv de girl dat's sitting next to me
But yesterday it all came to an end,
She said that I should take love more seriously
And now I think I really luv her friend.

Benjamin Zephaniah