





# Who Am I? African American Poets

**Directions:** Read each description below. Then, use books and digital research tools to help you match the poet to the description. Cut and paste the poet's image and name to the correct description. Then, conduct further research using the directions below.

## Answer Sheet

Research Directions:

- Research one of the poets online and/or by finding books at the library.
- Next, create a blog, piece of writing, poster, or art to teach others about what you learned.

<p>I was an author and a poet. I published several books of poetry, three books of essays, and seven autobiographies. I am best known for my seven autobiographies. The first in that series is called <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>. I was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for one of my books of poetry.</p>	<p>Maya Angelou</p> 
<p>I was born in 1872 to freed slaves from Kentucky. I became one of the first influential African American poets. I also wrote novels, essays, and short stories. I focused on the topic of life as an African American in the late 1800s and early 1900s. I am known as America's first great Black poet.</p>	<p>Paul Laurence Dunbar</p> 
<p>I was born in Topeka, Kansas, but grew up in Chicago. I wrote my first poem at the age of 7. In many of my poems, I wrote about African American life. I wrote about what life was like in cities, and I included the topics of racism and poverty. I was the first African American to receive a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.</p>	<p>Gwendolyn Brooks</p> 
<p>I was a poet, and I also wrote novels, plays, and short stories. People consider me one of the leaders of the Harlem Renaissance, which was a time of great creativity of African American artists in the 1920s. I used jazz rhythms and a certain way of speaking to show the life of African Americans living in the city.</p>	<p>Langston Hughes</p> 



Gwendolyn Brooks



Maya Angelou



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Paul Laurence Dunbar

