**STOMP!**

**from *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*\* (1970) by Maya Angelou**

The mourners on the front benches sat in a blue-serge, black-crepe-dress gloom. A funeral hymn made its way around the church tediously but successfully. It eased into the heart of every gay thought, into the care of each happy memory. Shattering the light and hopeful: "On the other side of Jordan, there is a peace for the weary, there is a peace for me." The inevitable destination of all living things seemed but a short step away. I had never considered before that *dying, death, dead, passed away*, were words and phrases that might be even faintly connected with me.

But on that onerous day, oppressed beyond relief, my own mortality was borne in upon me on sluggish tides of doom.

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| **Term** | **Explanation** | **Example (from excerpt above)** |
| **Speaker/Writer** | Read the prompt and determine the speaker/writer. Sometimes he/she will be named outright. If so, do you know any background on that person? If not, or if the speaker/writer is not named, what can you determine about him/her based on the prompt? |  |
| **Tone** | The attitude of the author and/or mood of the piece |  |
| **Occasion** | The time and the place of the piece; the context that prompted the writing. Writing does not occur in a vacuum. All writers are influenced by the *larger occasion*: an environment of ideas, attitudes, and emotions that swirl around a broad issue. Then there is the *immediate occasion*: an event or situation that catches the writer's attention and triggers a response. This may include a discussion of the audience, but only if there is a very specific intended audience for the piece, as in a letter. |  |
| **Method** | A general statement of the strategies the author uses to convey his/her purpose |  |
| **Purpose** | The reason behind the text |  |

**Take a few minutes and try writing an introduction to an analysis essay for the paragraph above using the STOP elements we identified on the chart. Two to four sentences usually does the trick.**

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