“Still I Rise” Analysis

Ever heard someone say, “Still I Rise,” after an example of something bad that might’ve happened to that person? They might’ve just gotten this phrase from Maya Angelou’s famous poem “Still I Rise.” This poem was a well written poem and described how there were certain situations in Maya’s life yet how she still has risen or has shaken off what had happened. There were many messages someone could’ve gotten from this poem. One may may say they got the message of “After some situations you shouldn’t five what the enemy wants,” or “You should always rise back up,” etc. Maya Angelou conveys the message of the poem, “Still I Rise,” by the tone she uses and her choice of background.

Has anyone ever said something to you that you thought was mean but that person says, “I didn’t mean it like that,”? Usually when a person is talking you listen to how they say the words and what those words are. In the poem Maya Angelou had a very defensive or very effective tone. My piece of evidence is, “You may trod me in the very dirt, But still, like dust, I’ll rise.” In the text she uses a attitude that is very sassy tone. She even knows she’s being sassy, she basically says she doesn’t even care if the way she acts is upsetting. To me I feel like her tone plays a big part in this poem. Her tone tells me that she 1. does not appreciate how she’s being treated and 2. she feels or has strong feelings about how she’s being treated so she writes those feelings and how she might’ve said them in her head or when she and decided to write them. Usually when she or any poet reads their poem they show their emotions by the way they read it. You could also figure out the tone by the words that are written in the poem. Clearly the words in this poem aren’t happy so you could guess that most likely the tone is sad or mournful. The tone helps convey the message because it shows that the message is also a serious one. Thus Maya Angelou conveys the message of “Still I Rise,” by using a serious tone.

Have you ever thought about how certain events impact someone’s character? Usually when events happen to people the event could change the person’s view about life or about anything really. In this poem I believe that the background - that Maya decided to include in the poem- can relate or help convey the message. My first piece of evidence is, “Up from a past that’s rooted in pain I rise.” Another piece of evidence is, “Leaving behind nights of terror and fear I rise Into a daybreak that’s wondrously clear I rise Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave.” To me, when I started to read about Angelou’s background, I believe that this background impacts the way she says things. Those words in the poem shows or gives us background because she talks about how she rose out of daybreak. This is somewhat
gives us the idea that her background wasn’t all that great. When she said, in the text, that she’s the hope of the slave, it shows that her message is about hope for the way she learned. Hope from the past and keeping that hope in the future. Not to mention she says I rise like saying she’s getting back on track.

In conclusion, Maya Angelou conveys the message by using her tone and her background. When I say tone I’m talking about the characteristic of her voice. Voice can be a sound or even heard in a text. In this poem Maya Angelou intended to give a characteristic to her voice. When I say background I’m talking about her experiences and in this poem she talks about kind-of making those ancestors -who were slaves- happy. Have you ever thought about former slaves and how they fought for what we have today? Do you think they would be happy seeing what happened after all the hard work?