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English 1300-003

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Summary

At the start, Maya tells us that the whole town comes to help the graduating classes and also, how her school is different from the white schools. She also symbolizes graduation as freedom, which to a black person, was pretty significant back then. The climax of the story begins as Donleavy is finishing his graduation speech. This speech opened Angelou's eyes to what her “freedom” after school would be. Angelous concluded there is no point in getting a diploma if her future is already planned out and she has no control over her fate. She just wanted the human race to go extinct because she thought every single person was a disgrace. Angelous kept thinking more and more about the meaning of her life until Henry Reed came on to do his speech. At first, she was surprised to see Henry still doing it like he had a choice, but then he started singing the Negro national anthem and the whole school joined him. Angelous, now, did not hate that she was black, she was proud.