

"Life Doesn't Frighten Me", by Maya Angelou

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

If you're looking for a little courage, "Life Doesn't Frighten Me" is the poem to turn to. Angelou takes us into the mind of a child who lists an elaborate array of things that seemingly don't frighten her — 'shadows', 'big ghosts' or even 'tough guys'. The refrain 'frighten me at all', is repeated ten times throughout the poem. This repetition causes one to question the speaker's honesty — is the child really not frightened? Or is this repetition simply a way to make her feel braver? Whether the child is truly unafraid or not, this poem perfectly encapsulates the concept of facing your fears with a smile.