IB Literature HL2
Unit 7: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Respond to at least two of the following prompts. Cite evidence from the text in support of your reasoning. This assignment is part of your Learner Portfolio. It is an opportunity to explore ideas informally and to plan for IB assessments in the coming year.

Identity:

In what ways does the book explore the nature of racial identity? Which literary or structural techniques best highlight this theme for the reader? Cite evidence from the text in your response.

Culture:

In what ways does the book critique racism in various regions across the United States during the mid-20th century? Analyze the ways that literary or structural techniques highlight this criticism.

Creativity:

In what ways does Angelou blend novelistic or literary techniques with autobiography? What are the effects of these creative choices on the reader? Cite examples from the text in your response.

Communication:

Explore 2-3 literary texts that Angelou alludes to in her autobiography. Analyze the way these allusions add thematic depth to the text.

Transformation:

Which 2-3 experiences in Angelou’s life were most transformative? Support your reasoning with evidence from the text.

Perspective:

At various points in the autobiography, Angelou briefly alternates between the perspectives of her younger and older selves in the form of parenthetical asides. What is the effect of these interjections on the reader? Cite evidence from the text in support of your response.

Representation:

Analyze 2-3 instances where Angelou explores the theme of beauty through the intersection of gender and race. Frame your response in terms of literary technique, and cite evidence from the text.