

An important event in Maya Angelou's life was her relationship with Mrs. Bertha Flowers. This acquaintance was important because it showed Maya that people of different income levels can be friends. Mrs. Flowers was much wealthier than Maya's family, yet she treated Maya and her mother with respect. Mrs. Flowers also gave Maya an appreciation for literature. Through her tutoring, Maya read and discussed novels and poetry. Without this experience, she most likely would not have become an author herself. Most importantly, Mrs. Flowers gave Maya self-worth. By taking a personal interest in her, she helped Maya overcome a traumatic experience that had kept her speechless for a year. The effect Mrs. Flowers had on Maya's childhood made their relationship an important part of Maya's life.