Poem Analysis:
“Still I Rise”

I. Prediction
Before reading the poem take a look at the poem’s title and based on the title make a prediction of what this poem will be about.

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

II. Comprehension Questions

1. Find at least 2 words you are unfamiliar with in the poem and write the words and their definitions below.

2. Who do you think the speaker is directing this poem at?

3. What do you think it means to “rise” in this poem?

4. In the last stanza what is the “huts of history’s shame” referring to?
### III. Analysis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Tone:</strong> What is the speaker’s tone? How do you know?</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mood:</strong> What kind of mood does this poem create? How do you feel after reading it?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong> What is the theme of message of this poem?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify as many examples of <strong>figurative language</strong> as you can in your poem (3 examples <strong>minimum</strong>).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you <strong>visualize</strong> when you read this poem? Write down any images that come to mind.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What questions</strong> do you have about the poem? What is still unclear?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Still I Rise (Excerpt)

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
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.
I rise
I rise
I rise.

Maya Angelou