

When Marian Sang

Pam Muñoz Ryan

a personal selection

Peirce library

Biography

Informs describes

Person(s) place(s) event(s)

### Elements of Nonfiction

1. This nonfiction selection is about Marian Anderson and her gift of being able to sing very well.
2. The author's purpose for writing this selection is to inform the reader about Marian's singing career and the struggles she went through to become one of the best singers ever.
3. The author includes locations where Marian wanted to sing and where she did sing.
4. A group of people that this book would be most appealing to would be people who enjoy the history of famous African American people who went against all odds and became the thing they were meant to become.
5. other: Songs that Marian sang  
*"Let us break bread together  
on our knees  
Let us break together  
on our knees  
When I fall on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun  
O Lord, have mercy on me"*
6. The central idea of the selection is that no matter what color you are, where you came from, or what you believe in, you can do whatever you set your mind to. This goes for everyone all over the world, if you have a gift don't waste it, use it for good.
7. "Didn't they know that her skin was different but her feelings were the same? Couldn't she be a professional singer if she was a negro? She could, and she will be."

## **Response to the Nonfiction Selection**

8. strong    9. strong    10. strong    11. strong    12. strong

13. strong:

Reasons for my rating: I rated this novel as strong because I really enjoyed seeing a glance of someone else's life and what they accomplished.

14. As I was reading the book a couple questions came to me. They were: "How exactly did Marian's father die?" "When did Marian die?" "Is she still one of the best singer's there is?" My questions weren't answered.

## **Reader's Response Journal**

Something especially important that I learned from this reading selection was that even if you're different than everyone else that has the same dream as you no one should have the upper hand because they have a certain skin color or not. This is important because people think that racism isn't in the U.S anymore, but that's not true. Racism may seem like it's vanished from the United States but it's still here, it's just hidden. People get racially profiled more than ever. It may not be as bad as segregation, but it's as bad as getting treated with a lesser value than other people, discarding a résumé for a job that someone was fully qualified for, and many other wrong things too.

This is why people around the world should be taught that every person should be treated the same no matter how they look, that's what this book taught me. I think that one of the main themes of this story was

that since Marian couldn't get into many of the singing colleges she applied for because of her skin color that didn't stop her one bit. That's what the author wants you to realize. I actually think it made her stronger for the future. She persevered and didn't give up until she accomplished her goal. Isn't that what life's all about? Isn't it about setting goals and trying to work towards them? Yes, and that's exactly what Marian did.

That's why it's so important for people to know that you should never give up on your dreams. Not because of your race, skin color, parents, current job, or those negative thoughts in your head that tell you you can't do something. That's why people should know about history, it shows us what not to do, and what to do. With this previous knowledge people live life to the fullest and that's the way to do it. The book explained that Marian's parents always taught her that she could do anything she wanted to even if she was brown skinned and she did exactly that, and look where that led her. That's why knowing you can do anything in this world no matter how you look is important, because it leads you to the something that you never thought was possible. I really enjoyed reading this book, and I hope the next person who reads it feels the same way that I do too.