

The Last Word



*Reading Recovery Founder
Dr. Marie M. Clay
1926 — 2007*

The following words, extracted from a longer poem entitled “Continue” by Maya Angelou, suggest how we might honor Dr. Clay through our daily efforts and ongoing commitment to children and teaching.

My wish for you
Is that you continue

Continue

To be who and how you are
To astonish a mean world
With your acts of kindness

Continue

To allow humor to lighten the burden
Of your tender heart

Continue

To put the mantle of your protection
Around the bodies of
The young and defenseless

Continue

To ignore no vision
Which comes to enlarge your range
And increase your spirit

Continue

To dare to love deeply
And risk everything
For the good thing

Continue

And by doing so
You and our work
Will be able to continue
Eternally

— Maya Angelou, 2006