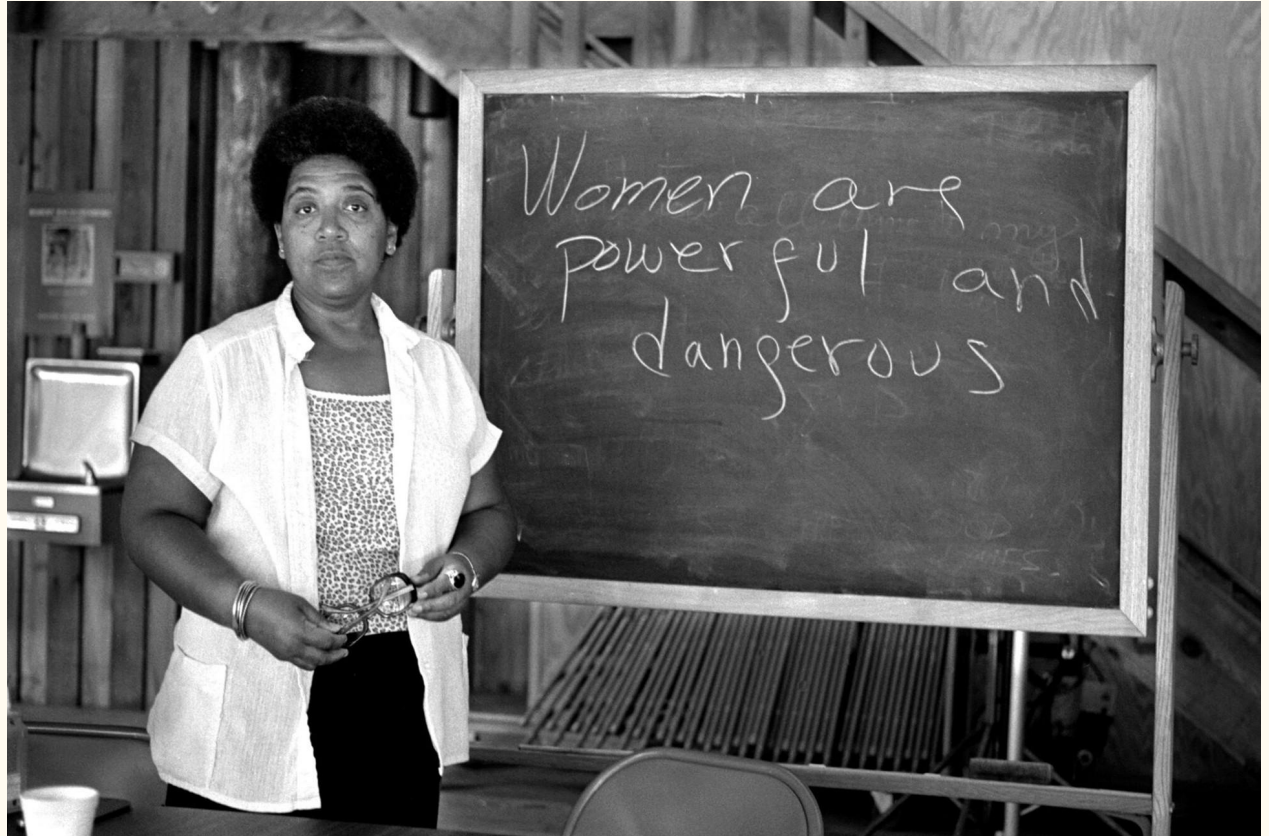


‘Black, Lesbian, Mother, Warrior, Poet’
Audre Lorde - the “Third Wave”
—

Presented by: Michael Huang & Larson Bennett

Audre Lorde (1934-1992)

- ★ Born in Harlem on February 18, 1934
- ★ Caribbean immigrant parents: Frederick Byron and Linda Belmar Lorde
- ★ First form of verbal communication
 - Poetry
- ★ Studied at Nat. Univ. of Mexico, Hunter College & Columbia University
- ★ Died after battling breast cancer for 14 years





Friend and inspired her first published poem, Diane di Prima.



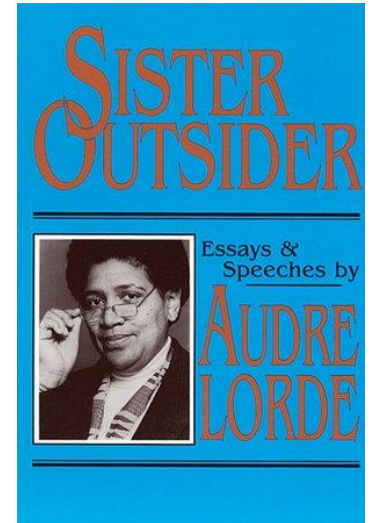
Lorde's longest romantic relationship was with white academic, Frances Clayton. Their relationship began in 1968 and lasted until 1989.

“The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House”

★ Essay was published in Sister Outsider in 1984

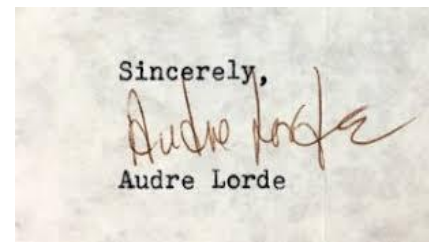
Brief Summary: The essay addresses issues regarding the importance of embracing differences as strengths within the feminist movement.

Having been invited to speak in a Humanities conference at NYU on the role of difference in American women’s lives, Lorde acknowledges in her paper that she is the only black lesbian feminist present. The main message that Lorde wishes to impart on the reader is that by welcoming difference, we, as a society, can “dismantle the Master’s House” and bring about genuine change.



Powerful Quotes:

- ★ “What does it mean when the tools of a racist patriarchy are used to examine the fruits of that same patriarchy?” (332)
- ★ “Advocating the mere tolerance of difference between women is the grossest form of reformism.” (333)
- ★ “The failure of the academic feminists to recognize difference as a crucial strength is a failure to reach beyond the first patriarchal lesson. Divide and conquer, in our world, must become define and empower.” (334)
- ★ “...touch that terror and loathing of any difference that lives there. See whose face it wears.” (335)





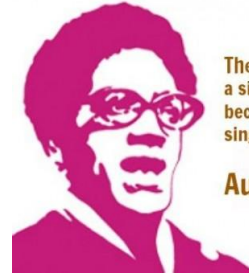
The “Third Wave” Feminist Movement

- ★ The “Third Wave” of feminism expanded on the previously understood definition of ‘feminism’ and what it meant to actively “be” a feminist.
- ★ The movement sought to include and recognize not only the voices of white women, but women with diverse backgrounds and identities.
 - Socioeconomic status, ethnicity, nationality, culture, color, etc.
- ★ Intersectionality, previously introduced in the “second wave,” becomes more fully incorporated as an idea and concept in the feminist movement.

How does this paper & Lorde fit in amongst the rest of society and the “third wave” of feminism?

- ★ The “Third Wave” of feminism encouraged the embrace and welcoming of difference, likewise this is the approach Lorde wanted to impress upon other feminists and readers of her work as well
 - Lorde believed that difference is a strength
 - Cannot examine feminist theory without considering “our many differences”

★ **Intersectionality** - While this feminist term was not explicitly mentioned in her papers and essays, Lorde responds to and critiques “second wave” feminism for omitting issues of intersectionality.



There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.

Audre Lorde

Feminists do not wish to have power over men, but rather over themselves.

Third Wave Feminists

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Audre Lorde 1934-1992



W. E. B. Du Bois 1868-1963

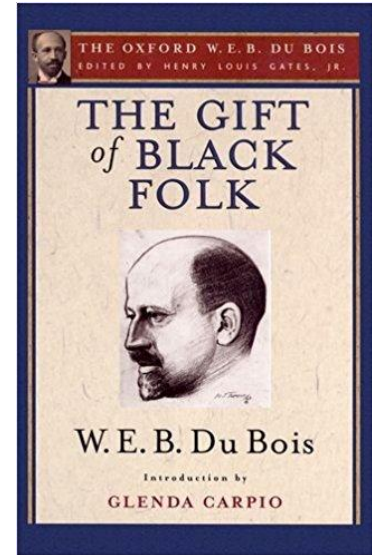
W. E. B. Du Bois (1868-1963)

- ★ Born in Great Barrington, MA on Feb. 23, 1868.
- ★ First wave feminist
- ★ Ph. D. from Harvard
- ★ Co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- ★ Died at age 95 in Ghana while planning the new Negro encyclopedia



“Three Great Revolutions” *labor, black people, women*

- ★ Du Bois made an intersectional analysis before such a term existed
- ★ Black women's suffrage, civil rights activist first and foremost
- ★ Intended to reform society and saw black women's suffrage as a multiplier for the most amount of social change





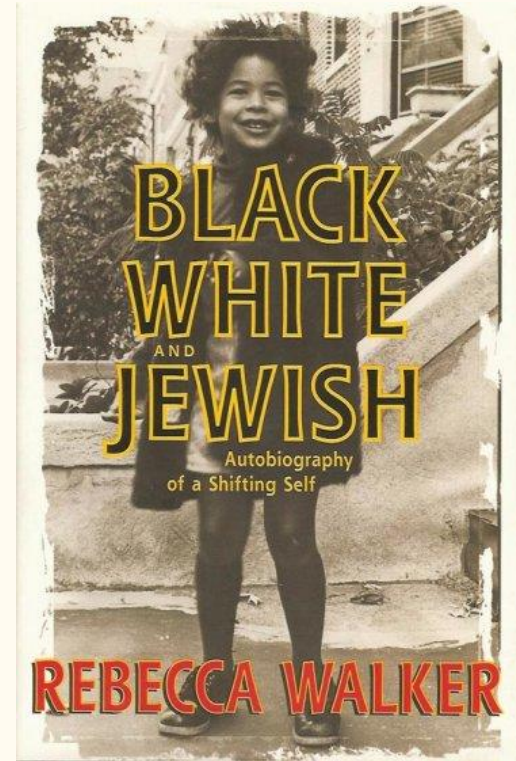
Audre Lorde



Rebecca Walker

Rebecca Walker

- ★ Born in Jackson, MS on November 17, 1969 (age 47)
- ★ Third wave feminist
- ★ Graduated from Yale in 1992
- ★ Founded the Third Wave Foundation in 1992
- ★ Black, White and Jewish



“Becoming the Third Wave”

I am not a postfeminism feminist. I am the Third Wave.

- ★ Embracing the idea of intersectionality
- ★ Third Wave Fund focuses on creating leaders among young women of color, queer, intersex, and trans.
- ★ “Lorde's work encouraged me to find, as a budding writer and activist, a place from which to speak that honored my full subjectivity.”



Questions:

1

What are the major differences between the “second wave” of feminism and the “third wave” of feminism? What was addressed in the “third wave” that many perceived was overlooked in the “second wave”?

2

In what ways has Lorde’s multiple identities (black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet) shaped or influenced her feminist outlook in life?

3

Considering the title of Lorde’s essay “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House,” do you think that feminists today have heeded her advice?

PRAISE THE

LORDE

memegenerator

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