



AUDRE LORDE: WRITER & ACTIVIST

by Isabella Wong

Audre Lorde was a civil rights activist and feminist who fought for the rights of black women. Born on February 18, 1934, in New York City, Lorde loved poetry and often recited whole poems or individual lines to communicate with people. When she could no longer find poems that expressed her feelings, she started writing her own poetry as a teenager. Her work on feminism, race and LGBT issues are known for being honest meditations on identity and community.

She was a librarian for seven years before publishing her first volume of poetry, *The First Cities*. In 1981, Lorde was among the founders of the Women's Coalition of St. Croix, an organization dedicated to assisting women who have survived abuse, violence, or other forms of injustice. Lorde also fought for the rights of black women in countries like Germany and South Africa. Her continuous activism has inspired powerful calls for social and racial justice in the marginalization of minority groups.

“I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own.”

Did You Know? Lorde was a professor of English at John Jay College of criminal justice and Hunter College. She was the poet laureate of New York from 1991-1992.

