**Introducing Poet Audre Lorde**

**Karen Stein**

**Poet Audre Lorde (1934-1992)**

* Lorde wrote 10 books of poetry and 4 of prose.
* Defines herself as “black lesbian feminist warrior poet”

# Excerpt from Audre Lorde’s “A Litany for Survival”

“and when we speak we are afraid  
our words will not be heard  
nor welcomed  
but when we are silent  
we are still afraid  
So it is better to speak  
remembering  
we were never meant to survive”

**Notes on “125th Street and Abomey”**

* 125th St is in the Harlem section of New York City.
* Dahomey was a wealthy African kingdom. Abomey was its capital.
* Seboulisa is a mother/ creator goddess.
* Akai are tight braids wrapped with ribbons.

**More Information about Audre Lorde**

Excerpts and quotes from Lorde’s [The Black Unicorn: Poems](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/457374)

[An interview with Audre Lorde](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4rDL-xZ8N0) (44 minutes)

[Biography](https://poets.org/poet/audre-lorde)

[Essays, introductions, news, etc. about Audre Lorde](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/search?query=Audre+Lorde) from the American Academy of Poets

[Trailer for the documentary, *A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IfDLEb_n4w)