

Sister Outsider by Audre Lorde

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A black and white photograph of Audre Lorde speaking into a microphone. She is wearing a headscarf and has a joyful expression. A semi-transparent grey banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

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Please take a moment to learn more about Audre Lorde: Author, Poet, Black, Woman, Lesbian, Mom, Feminist.

Summary

Sister Outsider is a collection of prose works, by Audre Lorde, spanning between 1976 and 1983. Lorde speaks on her experiences traveling to Russia, Uzbekistan, and Grenada comparing and contrasting her experiences, as a black lesbian feminist, with life in the United States dealing, daily, with institutionalized racism, sexism, classism, the patriarchy, and homophobia.

Lorde brings her experiences to life with the description of her journey as a young person, a student, an adult, a parent, a partner with a focus on her intent to encourage people to be self-aware and honest about their oppression and their oppressive behaviors/attitudes toward others. Lorde masterfully challenges her audience to examine their perspectives and choices to create a better future for all.





Behind the Doodle: Audre Lorde's 87th Birthday

Quotes:

“You do not have to be me in order for us to fight alongside each other. I do not have to be you to recognize that our wars are the same. What we must do is commit ourselves to some future that can include each other and to work toward that future with the particular strengths of our individual identities. And in order for us to do this, we must allow each other our differences at the same time as we recognize our sameness.”

“For the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house. They may allow us to temporarily beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change...”

“... Women of today are still being called upon to stretch across the gap of male ignorance and to educate men as to our existence and our needs. **This is an old and primary tool of all oppressed occupied with the master’s concerns.**”

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

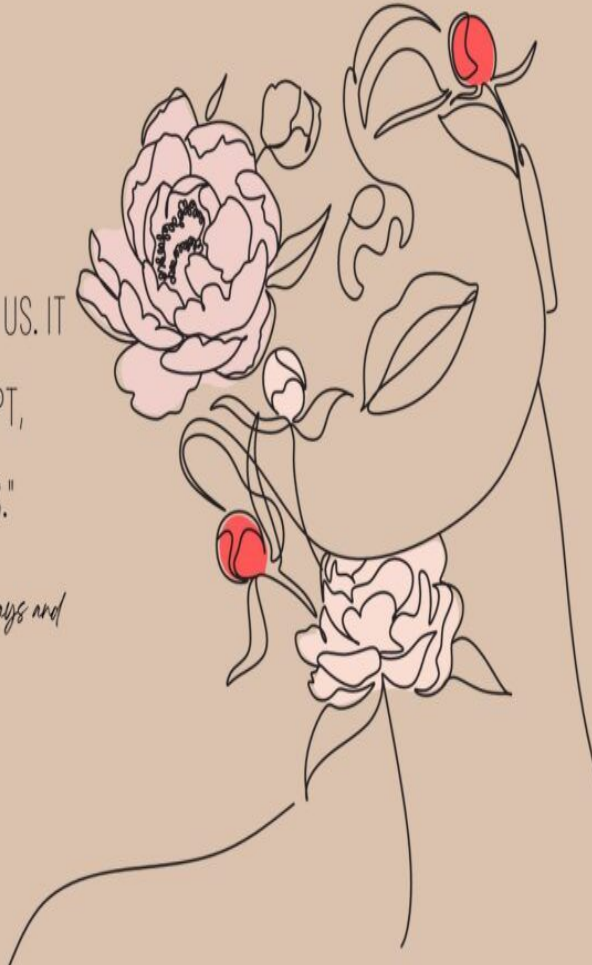
“Change means growth, and growth can be painful. But we sharpen self-definition by exposing the self in the work and struggle together with those whom we define as different from ourselves, although sharing the same goals. For Black and white, old and young, lesbian or hererosexual women alike, this can mean new paths to our survival.

*“We have chosen each other/
and the edge of each others battles/
the war is the same/
if we lose/
someday women’s blood will congeal/
upon a dead planet a\\/
if we win/
there is no telling/
we seek beyond history/
for a new and more possible meeting” Pg 123*

How does this book relate to Critical Theory?

"IT IS NOT OUR DIFFERENCES THAT DIVIDE US. IT
IS OUR INABILITY TO RECOGNIZE, ACCEPT,
AND CELEBRATE THOSE DIFFERENCES."

*Audre Lorde, Sister Outsider: Essays and
Speeches.*



*"When we speak we are
afraid our words will not
be heard or welcomed. But
when we are silent, we are
still afraid. So it is better
to speak."*

Audre Lorde