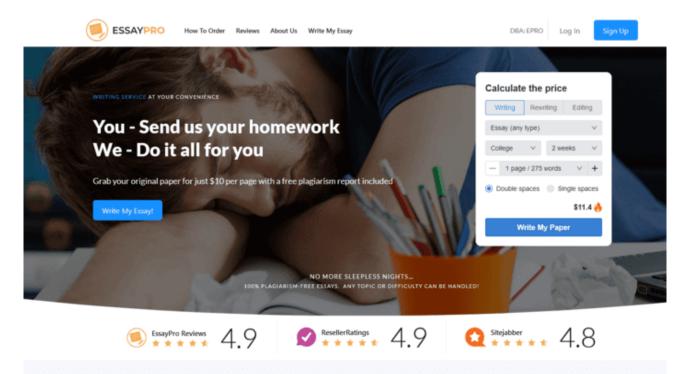
Literary Analysis of Audre Lorde's Power



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Literary Analysis of Audre Lorde's Power Audre Lorde uses her poetic prose to express her feelings of anger and fury over an unfortunate incident which occurred in New York City in the late 1970's. She shares her outrage and disgust at a racist society that can allow a child's death to be buried with no true justice found to help resolve the loss of a innocent child. Audre Lorde adopted an African name at the end of her life, Gamba Adisa, which means "Warrior-She Who Makes Her Meaning Known." (1404) This name she chose can help explain the role as a woman poet and writer she felt she had to play and why she wrote the various works that she produced throughout her life. Lorde was brought up in Harlem and probably understood the difficulties people can encounter when race is involved. In the poem the "Power" she is trying to use her poetic gift to stand up for these racial injustices and to try to make a conscience difference. Lorde wants to be heard, instead of just using rhetoric and the art of effective writing, she is searching for the power she has as a African-American woman poet to make people hear and think about racial injustices. "Power" (1030) is a poem that has two different levels of meaning, literal and nonliteral. The first being a narrative poem literally about Clifford Glover, a ten-year-old African-

American Queens boy who was shot by a Caucasian police officer that was acquitted by a jury. The second being the nonliteral, more poetic intent, Audre Lorde's reaction and feelings of fury and disgust over this incident. She entangles this racial injustice with her own furious and unsatisfied feelings in this piece. The first two stanzas are about Lorde's feelings and images she sees due to ...

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...over and jot down her thoughts. If these were the thoughts running through my head that were making my whole being ill - I too would need to write them down and get them out of my head. Her harsh images ands racial digs in this piece do prompt an individual to stop and think, even get angry. Lorde probably meant to point out this problem in its ugly light so to help avoid such tragic loses from happening again. To ensure that not everyone will just step aside when it is their turn to protect and serve our youth of today. Audre Lorde truly appears to be a "warrior' and she certainly has "made her meaning known" as her name, so appropriately means and her <u>poetry</u> so appropriately reflects to its audience.

Works Cited

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