The following study guide to the film is mainly designed for secondary schools, especially for teachers of English, Literature, History, Politics, Sociology, African American Studies, Women and Gender Studies and interdisciplinary courses. Cultural workers and political activists may find it useful as well.

**ABOUT THE FILM**

*Before viewing:*

- What associations do you have with the word ‘black’?
- Think about these three statements that are made in the film:
  - Poetry is the most subversive form of language.
  - White people don’t allow you to forget that you are black.
  - My silences had not protected me. Your silences will not protect you.

*After viewing:*

- What do you think about the structure of this documentary?
- What have you learned about the impact Audre Lorde’s personality and poetry had on her different audiences in Germany?
- What have you found out in the film about Afro-German people?
- How would you define the main message of the film?
- Give examples how the film’s message is enhanced by the use of archival film footage, montage, sound, music, images etc.
**COMMENT** on Audre Lorde’s statements:

- I speak as an African-American woman, a lesbian, a poet, a warrior, a mother, a cancer Survivor.

- **Let us be ourselves as we define us (...). If you do not identify yourself, someone will and it will always be to your detriment (...)**

- The *white* women’s movement must accept antiracism and work against anti-semitism as central to the women’s movement or it will die.

- **Racism is a problem of the racist, racism is a white problem. We suffer from it, but the corrosive effects of racism are in the people who practice it (...)**

- **We share an earth and we need each other, but we are not each other, we are different. I can know and respect your differences; you must know and respect mine. That is the only way we can work together.**

- **Power is relative, but it is real. And if you do not use whatever power you possess it will be used against you.**

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**ABOUT AUDRE LORDÉ**

Conduct an Internet Research to find out more about Audre Lorde. *A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde*: http://true.lives.org/pg_alitanyforsurvival.html
BOOKS REFERRED TO IN THE FILM AND SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Consult www.dagmarschultz.com and www.audrelorde-theberlinyears.com

ABOUT AFRO-GERMANS

What do you associate with this definition?

Find out more: http://www.isdonline.de

A SELECTION OF FURTHER READINGS


PROJECTS

Organize a film-viewing event at your institution.

This study guide may be useful for structuring it.

Organize a panel discussion about the issues raised in the film Audre Lorde – The Berlin Years.

Discuss further ideas in groups at your institution.