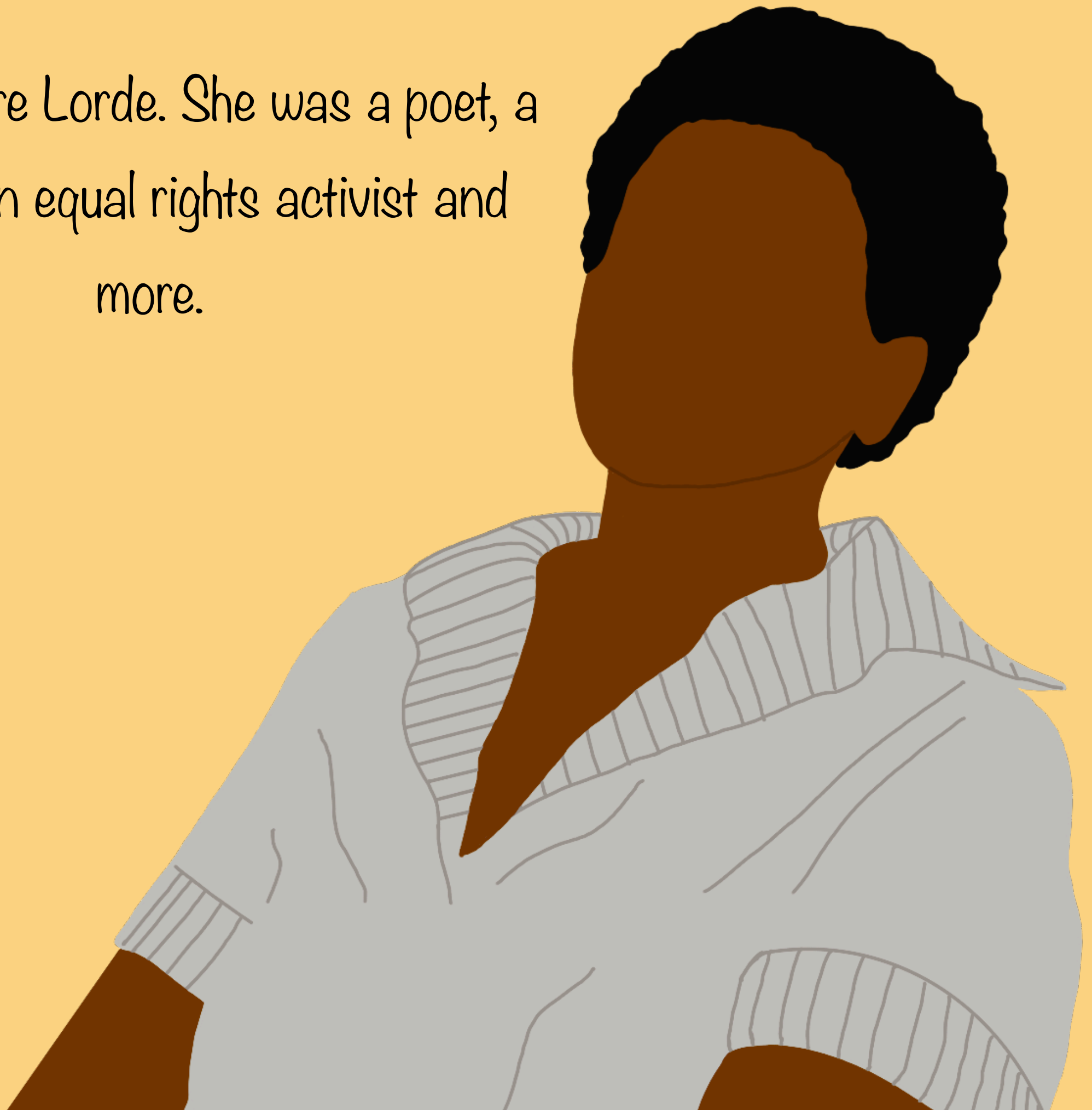


Audre Lorde

This is Audre Lorde. She was a poet, a
feminist, an equal rights activist and
more.



As a child Audre struggled with communication. Instead, she expressed her feelings through poetry which is when her love for words began.

She wrote her first poem in the eighth grade and continued to find her voice.



In the 1960s, she started to publish her poetry in magazines and anthologies. The first volume of poems she pushed were “The First Cities”, in 1968.



Her poems covered different topics like civil rights, feminism, lesbianism, illness, disability, and the exploration of black female identity.

That same year she got a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and was able to become a writer in residence at Tougaloo College. This is where she recognized her love of teaching.



She wrote essays and presented speeches about what she believed in, confronting racism, sexism, classism and homophobia all through a feminist lens.



In 1977, Audre was diagnosed with breast cancer. During this time she felt her treatment experiences isolating as a black lesbian women.

In response, she shared her journey by writing “The Cancer Journals” (1980), this became an influential illness narrative and won an award in 1981.





Audre accomplished many things in her life and her voice continues to echo today. Her words inspire and remind us of the power of speaking up.

“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.”

-Audre Lorde

A poet's voice, strong and clear,

Audre spoke for all to hear.

For justice, love and equal rights,

Her words inspire, setting the path.

-Makenna Crawford