

African American Speeches And Poems

IN MEMORIAM: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BY JUNE JORDAN

I

honey people murder mercy U.S.A.
the milkland turn to monsters teach
to kill to violate pull down destroy
the weakly freedom growing fruit
from being born

America

tomorrow yesterday rip rape
exacerbate despoil disfigure
crazy running threat the
deadly thrall
appall belief dispel
the wildlife burn the breast
the onward tongue
the outward hand
deform the normal rainy
riot sunshine shelter wreck
of darkness derogate
delimit blank
explode deprive
assassinate and batten up
like bullets fatten up
the raving greed
reactivate a springtime
terrorizing

death by men by more
than you or I can

STOP

II

They sleep who know a regulated place
or pulse or tide or changing sky
according to some universal
stage direction obvious
like shorewashed shells

we share an afternoon of mourning
in between no next predictable
except for wild reversal hearse rehearsal
bleach the blacklong lunging
ritual of fright insanity and more
deplorable abortion
more and
more

weareteachers.com



African American speeches and poems have played a pivotal role in shaping the cultural and social landscape of the United States. These powerful forms of expression not only highlight the struggles and triumphs of African Americans but also serve as a medium for advocating for civil rights, equality, and justice. From the poignant words of renowned poets to the stirring speeches of influential leaders, African American literature has inspired generations and continues to resonate

today. In this article, we will explore the history, significance, and impact of African American speeches and poems, as well as highlight some of the most notable figures and their contributions.

The Historical Context of African American Speeches and Poems

The origins of African American speeches and poems can be traced back to the time of slavery, when oral traditions were crucial for preserving African heritage and culture. Enslaved Africans used storytelling, folk tales, and songs as a way to communicate their experiences, maintain a sense of community, and resist oppression. Over time, as African Americans fought for their rights, these oral traditions evolved into powerful written works that addressed social justice, identity, and resistance.