

Hanging Fire

By: Audre Lorde

Adapted by Fishtank Staff

- 1 I am fourteen
and my skin has betrayed me
the boy I cannot live without
still sucks his thumb
- 5 in secret
how come my knees are
always so ashy
what if I die
before morning
- 10 and momma's in the bedroom
with the door closed.
- I have to learn how to dance
in time for the next party
my room is too small for me
- 15 suppose I die before graduation
they will sing sad melodies
but finally
tell the truth about me
There is nothing I want to do
- 20 and too much
that has to be done
and momma's in the bedroom
with the door closed.
- Nobody even stops to think
- 25 about my side of it
I should have been on Math Team
my marks were better than his
why do I have to be
the one
- 30 wearing braces
I have nothing to wear tomorrow
will I live long enough
to grow up
and momma's in the bedroom
- 35 with the door closed.