

# Women in History/Careers

## Writer Speaks to Empowerment



June Jordan

June Jordan is a well-known writer of poetry, children's and young adult literature, and essays. Born in Harlem, N. Y., in 1936, she is among the significant artists who came of age during the "second renaissance of African American artists in the 1960s and 1970s.

Themes of power and empowerment, nurturance and pride, survival and advancement for both the community and its members characterize literary vision across the several genres in which she writes.

Her work is antiracist, feminist, and avowedly political; it powerfully and skill-

fully explores African American experience and advocates self-determination and activism for community advancement, as well as for improving interracial relations and those between the sexes.

Jordan's writing for and with African American children and young adults attests to her conviction of the healing empowerment of language and self-expression; moreover, her children's books expand the genre by taking on the harsh social realities they face.

The award-winning *His Own Where*, a novel for young adults, is distinguished by its use of African American spoken

English and its focus on urban redesign to create environmental conditions that can empower communities.

Jordan is recognized for her expert craftsmanship, a patterning of sound, rhythm, and image that interweaves disparate emotions and voices in a poetry that is never less than political and never lessened by its politics.

Her political, social, and personal artistic vision is comprehensive, humane, and charged with conviction; her poetry and essays are expansive expressions of her wide-ranging aesthetic and human concerns.



**We stand together, richer for our differences.**

We celebrate the wisdom of collaboration and the strength in diversity.

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