

Ibi Zoboi



Author of *American Street*, Ibi Zoboi, uses her Haitian background as inspiration for her main character, Fabiola.

3

Fun Facts



Fill in the Blanks

Butler

Bee.

Spelling

Octavia

fibula

\$250

dresses

New

pens.

week.

days

Years.

bus.

July

grade

tibia

4th

2nd

Her favorite holidays are _____ and

In the _____ she won the _____

She broke her _____ and _____ when she got hit by a _____

She collects colorful _____

In her first spoken word she won a _____ gift

certificate.

She is a fan of _____

She _____ according to the _____ of the

More on Zoboi



- ▶ Immigrating to New York as a young child, Zoboi was born in Port-au-Prince Haiti.
- ▶ While she was much younger than our main character, she had first-hand experience with the immigration process.



Poll

Do you know anything about Voodoo?

Yes

No

American Street contains . . .



Voodoo

- ▶ Vodou is the religion that Fabiola practices.
- ▶ It's a religion unique to Haiti that combines practices from Roman Catholicism and traditional African Yoruba practices. Practitioners pray to *lwas*, or spirits, for guidance and help.
- ▶ It's important to note that Haitians that practice this religion do believe in God.

Lwas



- ▶ **Lwas** that play a significant part in the novel.
- ▶ **At first, it is not apparent to the characters that the lwas are spirits.**
 - **Ex: Papa Legba is a lwa known to be in charge of cross-roads and destiny.**





Video

Haitian Voodoo | National Geographic

The People of Haiti

- ▶ Half of the population practices Voodoo.
- ▶ The people speak with a Creole accent/dialect.
- ▶ The population is about 95% Black, as a result of the African slave trade.
- ▶ Over half of the country lives in pure poverty.



Quiz

The author of American Street was born in which city?

- Delmas
- Port-au-Prince
- Detroit
- Les Cayes

The majority of Haiti lives in poverty. Approximately what percent of the population lives in poverty?

- 95%
- 60%
- 10%
- 50%

Haitians speak with what accent?

- French
- Creole
- Spanish
- African