

RE Challenge Task: Amanda Gorman Poem

The Hill We Climb

Begin by following the links which will explain who Amanda Gorman is and why she is becoming famous.



1. As you watch, think about the following questions:

- What do you notice?
- What do you wonder?
- What stands out to you?

Watch : [Introduction to 22-year-old Amanda Gorman](#) (PBS NewsHour), who read her poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of President Joe Biden. His wife, First Lady [Dr. Jill Biden is a fan of Amanda's poetry](#). This link will give some further information

You can also watch Gorman delivering her inaugural poem [here](#), and [read a copy of it here](#).

2. Watch Amanda Gorman's TED-Ed student talk: ["Using your voice is a political choice"](#)

- How would you respond to Amanda?

3. Watch/Listen/Read another one of Gorman's poems, ["The Miracle of Morning," written in 2020.](#)

- Analyse the poem by annotating, highlighting or having a conversation with the text.

The Miracle of Morning

By AMANDA GORMAN

I thought I'd awaken to a world in mourning.
Heavy clouds crowding, a society storming.
But there's something different on this golden morning.
Something magical in the sunlight, wide and warming.

I see a dad with a stroller taking a jog.
Across the street, a bright-eyed girl chases her dog.
A grandma on a porch fingers her rosaries.
She grins as her young neighbour brings her groceries.

While we might feel small, separate, and all alone,
Our people have never been more closely tethered.
The question isn't if we can weather this unknown,
But how we will weather this unknown together.

So on this meaningful morn, we mourn and we mend.
Like light, we can't be broken, even when we bend.

As one, we will defeat both despair and disease.
We stand with healthcare heroes and all employees;
With families, libraries, waiters, schools, artists;
Businesses, restaurants, and hospitals hit hardest.

We ignite not in the light, but in lack thereof,
For it is in loss that we truly learn to love.
In this chaos, we will discover clarity.
In suffering, we must find solidarity.

For it's our grief that gives us our gratitude,
Shows us how to find hope, if we ever lose it.
So ensure that this ache wasn't endured in vain:
Do not ignore the pain. Give it purpose. Use it.

Read children's books, dance alone to DJ music.
Know that this distance will make our hearts grow fonder.
From these waves of woes our world will emerge stronger.

We'll observe how the burdens braved by humankind
Are also the moments that make us humans kind;
Let each morning find us courageous, brought closer;
Heeding the light before the fight is over.
When this ends, we'll smile sweetly, finally seeing
In testing times, we became the best of beings.

April 2020

4. **Write your own poem** in reply to Gorman's poem "The Miracle of Morning" or "The Hill We Climb."

Choose a line, a vibe or a moment from the poem to inspire your response. What are you waking up to today? What is the miracle in your morning (or mourning)? What hill do you — or we — climb?

5. **Gorman highlights the everyday heroes** — essential workers, health care teams and more — in "The Miracle of Morning." Who are the everyday heroes in your life?
 - Write a tribute or ode to your everyday heroes through the pandemic and in your life.