ELA Connections through Poetry



Science education can take many forms — from textbooks and museum exhibits to documentaries, news articles, and yes, even poetry! And you don't need to be an adult in an education career to talk to others about science. Amanda Gorman, former National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States, was only 16 years old when she presented her poem "Earthrise" to the Climate Reality Leadership Corps in 2018.

Watch and Read the Poem

Watch the video linked below of Amanda Gorman's poem and follow up by reading the text of the poem.

- Video of Amanda Gorman Reciting Her Poem
- Text of the Poem "Earthrise"

Reading Questions

1. The full title of this poem is "Our Purpose in Poetry: Or, Earthrise." What is Gorman's purpose in writing this poem? Who is her primary audience, and what does she want her audience to do?

2.	Do you think Gorman is more hopeful or pessimistic about the future of the planet? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.
3.	Do you agree with Gorman's statement that "climate change is the single greatest challenge of our time"? Why or why not?
4.	Identify a specific environmental concern of your own and write a poem to teach your peers about it. Be sure to include details about the issue, why you are concerned about it, and steps your audience could take to improve the situation.