

## Amanda Gorman's Earthrise

[-https://www.youtube.com/embed/xwOvBv8RLmo?autoplay=1&auto\\_play=true](https://www.youtube.com/embed/xwOvBv8RLmo?autoplay=1&auto_play=true)

Our Purpose in Poetry:  
Or, Earthrise

Dedicated to Al Gore and The  
Climate Reality Project

On Christmas Eve, 1968,  
astronaut Bill Anders  
Snapped a photo of the earth  
As Apollo 8 orbited the moon.  
Those three guys  
Were surprised  
To see from their eyes  
Our planet looked like an  
earthrise  
A blue orb hovering over the  
moon's gray horizon,  
with deep oceans and silver  
skies.

It was our world's first glance at  
itself  
Our first chance to see a shared  
reality,  
A declared stance and a  
commonality;

A glimpse into our planet's  
mirror,  
And as threats drew nearer,  
Our own urgency became  
clearer,  
As we realize that we hold  
nothing dearer  
than this floating body we all call  
home.

We've known  
That we're caught in the throes  
Of climactic changes some say  
Will just go away,  
While some simply pray  
To survive another day;  
For it is the obscure, the  
oppressed, the poor,  
Who when the disaster  
Is declared done,  
Still suffer more than anyone.

Climate change is the single  
greatest challenge of our time,

Of this, you're certainly aware.  
It's saddening, but I cannot spare  
you  
From knowing an inconvenient  
fact, because  
It's getting the facts straight that  
gets us to act and not to wait.

So I tell you this not to scare you,  
But to prepare you, to dare you  
To dream a different reality,

Where despite disparities  
We all care to protect this world,  
This riddled blue marble, this little  
true marvel  
To muster the verve and the  
nerve  
To see how we can serve  
Our planet. You don't need to be  
a politician  
To make it your mission to  
conserve, to protect,  
To preserve that one and only  
home  
That is ours,

To use your unique power  
To give next generations the  
planet they deserve.

We are demonstrating, creating,  
advocating  
We heed this inconvenient truth,  
because we need to be anything  
but lenient  
With the future of our youth.

And while this is a training,  
in sustaining the future of our  
planet,  
There is no rehearsal. The time  
is  
Now  
Now  
Now,  
Because the reversal of harm,  
And protection of a future so  
universal  
Should be anything but  
controversial.

So, earth, pale blue dot  
We will fail you not.

Just as we chose to go to the  
moon  
We know it's never too soon  
To choose hope.  
We choose to do more than cope

With climate change  
We choose to end it—  
We refuse to lose.  
Together we do this and more  
Not because it's very easy or  
nice  
But because it is necessary,  
Because with every dawn we  
carry

the weight of the fate of this  
celestial body orbiting a star.  
And as heavy as that weight  
sounded, it doesn't hold us down,

But it keeps us grounded, steady,  
ready,  
Because an environmental  
movement of this size  
Is simply another form of an  
earthrise.

To see it, close your eyes.  
Visualize that all of us leaders in  
this room  
and outside of these walls or in  
the halls, all  
of us change-makers are in a  
spacecraft,  
Floating like a silver raft  
in space, and we see the face of  
our planet anew.  
We relish the view;  
We witness its round green and  
brilliant blue,  
Which inspires us to ask deeply,  
wholly:  
What can we do?  
Open your eyes.  
Know that the future of  
this wise planet  
Lies right in sight:  
Right in all of us. Trust  
this earth uprising.  
All of us bring light to exciting  
solutions never tried before  
For it is our hope that implores  
us, at our uncompromising core,  
To keep rising up for an earth  
more than worth fighting for.

**[To Jenny O'N +, BryW, Steve W, Diana S,  
Lara C, C Flynn, Christine Latham, ]**