

# Black History Month: A Year Later – Amanda Gorman

In January 2021, Amanda Gorman read her poem “The Hill We Climb” at the inauguration of President Joe Biden. A year later, she released her poem “New Day’s Lyric” reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the coming year.

**Description of the Activity:** In this activity, you will be provided with a video of Amanda Gorman speaking “A New Day’s Lyric” along with the written text. You will be asked to respond to three (3) questions about the meaning and significance of the poem. The response to each of the three (3) questions is required to be at least 3-4 sentences in length in order to earn SSL credit.

**How SSL Hours Are Earned:** Complete the activity according to the below instructions and earn one (1) SSL hour.

**Deadline for this activity is: Friday, March 4, 2022**

If you have any questions, please contact Hoover MS PTA at: [HooverMSPTA@gmail.com](mailto:HooverMSPTA@gmail.com)

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Please submit ALL the below REQUIRED information and responses to: [HooverMSPTAwhm@gmail.com](mailto:HooverMSPTAwhm@gmail.com). In the subject line of the email write “BHM: A Year Later – Amanda Gorman.”

- 1) Student Last Name
- 2) Student First Name
- 3) Grade
- 4) Student’s email address (Do NOT use your MCPS student email address. If you do not have a personal email, provide the email address of your parent/guardian. We need an email address to send your SSL form.)
- 5) Watch Amanda Gorman speak her poem “New Day’s Lyric.” You can also read the poem below. After watching or reading the poem, respond to the three (3) questions below. **\*\*Responses to these questions are required to be at least 3-4 sentences in length in order to earn SSL credit.\*\***
- 6) Question One - In the poem, Amanda Gorman mentions several things in the past which can change in the future (e.g. “battered, we come together”). Quote a line from the poem and provide a real-life example of a problem in the past and how it can change in the future. **\*\*Response is required to be at least 3-4 sentences in length in order to earn SSL credit.\*\***
- 7) Question Two - Describe the feelings the poem evokes from the reader. **\*\*Response is required to be at least 3-4 sentences in length in order to earn SSL credit.\*\***
- 8) Question Three - The poem inspires people to take action, what are you inspired to do after hearing or reading the poem and how will you use this inspiration to motivate others in your community? **\*\*Response is required to be at least 3-4 sentences in length in order to earn SSL credit.\*\***

## **New Day's Lyric by Amanda Gorman**

May this be the day

We come together.

Mourning, we come to mend,

Withered, we come to weather,

Torn, we come to tend,

Battered, we come to better.

Tethered by this year of yearning,

We are learning

That though we weren't ready for this,

We have been readied by it.

Steadily we vow that no matter

How we are weighed down,

We must always pave a way forward.

This hope is our door, our portal.

Even if we never get back to normal,

Someday we can venture beyond it,

To leave the known and take the first steps.

So let us not return to what was normal,

But reach toward what is next.

What was cursed, we will cure.

What was plagued, we will prove pure.

Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,

Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we foresee,

Where we weren't aware, we're now awake;

Those moments we missed  
Are now these moments we make,  
The moments we meet,  
And our hearts, once all together beaten,  
Now all together beat.  
Come, look up with kindness yet,  
For even solace can be sourced from sorrow.  
We remember, not just for the sake of yesterday,  
But to take on tomorrow.  
We heed this old spirit,  
In a new day's lyric,  
In our hearts, we hear it:  
For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne.  
Be bold, sang Time this year,  
Be bold, sang Time,  
For when you honor yesterday,  
Tomorrow ye will find.  
Know what we've fought  
Need not be forgot nor for none.  
It defines us, binds us as one,  
Come over, join this day just begun.  
For wherever we come together,  
We will forever overcome.

End