

POET SPOTLIGHT

AMANDA GORMAN

Amanda Gorman is an American poet and activist. She was awarded National Youth Poet Laureate in 2017 and recently became the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history. In addition to being an award-winning writer, she is also a *cum laude* graduate of Harvard University.

Amanda Gorman: Using your voice is a political choice -

[Discussion guide](#)

Listen to three of Amanda Gorman's poems:

- ["Earthrise"](#)
 - A poem on climate change and global hope.
- ["The Miracle of Morning"](#)
 - A poem in response to the hardships of the pandemic.
- [Amanda Gorman's Biden Inauguration Poem](#)
 - A poem on the future of American progress.

MORE RESOURCES

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WHO ARE SOME OTHER NOTABLE POETS?

Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892)

- Whitman is among the most influential poets in American history and is often called the father of free verse.
- Learn more about his life from this brief Biography video: [Walt Whitman Revolutionized American Poetry](#)

Robert Frost (1874 - 1963)

- Frost is a four-time Pulitzer prize winner. His poetry is often recognizable for its heartfelt portrayal of New England life and landscape.
- Learn more about Frost's life and impact: [Robert Frost | American Poet | Mini Biography](#)

VIDEOS ON POETRY

- [Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise](#)
 - A documentary on the life of Maya Angelou, whose renowned writing and activism reflected significant moments in the history of the United States of America.
 - Film duration: 2 hours
- [Papa is a Poet: A Story About Robert Frost](#)
 - A reading of Natalie S. Bober's picture book on Robert Frost.
 - Video duration: 15 minutes

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has poetry played a role in your life?
2. Have you ever written poetry? What was your inspiration?
3. Which poets do you know? Do you have a favorite poet?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Check out current exhibits at the [American Poetry Museum](#)
- Listen to the ["Poem-a-Day" podcast](#) produced by the Academy of American Poets.
- ShareAmerica - [Poetry slam gives young people the confidence to express themselves](#)
- ShareAmerica - [Meet Joy Harjo, the new U.S. poet laureate](#)
- ShareAmerica - [A poet gives voice to all languages](#)