

# *Earthrise* a Poem by Amanda Gorman

## Discussion Questions Answer Key

1. Apollo 8 was only the second crewed spaceflight mission flown in the United States. Apollo 8 became the first spacecraft to leave low Earth orbit, reach the Moon, orbit it, and return, giving us our first picture of Earth from space. Why do you think Amanda starts the poem with this information?  
**Answer: It was the first time we saw Earth from space, showing that we all share the planet and are all responsible for keeping it clean and safe to live on**
2. Stanza 5 is only one line. "Climate change is the single greatest challenge of our time". Why does the author give this line its own stanza?  
**Answer: To show how important that statement is, place emphasis on the need for action towards climate change**
3. Why is it important to know the facts about climate change? Re-read stanzas 6,7 & 8 to provide an example from the text to support your answer.  
**Answer: When people are informed, they are prepared with knowledge, can take action, and help others, you can have important conversations and share facts and ideas respectfully. Amanda states "It's getting the facts straight that gets us to act and not wait"**
4. In stanza 6, the author states, "It's getting the facts straight that gets us to act and not wait". Imagine you are speaking with someone who is just learning the facts about climate change. List a fact that you might share and why that fact may convince the learner to act.  
**Various Answers-Some Examples:**
  - Climate change is disrupting habitats causing species extinction which is irreversible.
  - Weather events such as hurricanes and major storms have increased in number and damaged caused.
  - Air pollutions has increase lung diseases especially asthma in children.
5. What metaphor does Amanda Gorman use for the earth in stanza 8?  
**Answer: She compares the earth to a riddled blue marble**
6. In stanzas 8, 9, & 10 Amanda Gorman talks about giving the next generation the planet they deserve. Why is climate change important for young people to learn about?  
**Answer: We form habits that impact the environment and our world when we are young, making sure we form healthy, earth friendly habits is important to begin at an early age!**
7. Why is the word "now" repeated in stanza 10?  
**Answer: To show we must address climate change today! Poets repeat words and phrases to place emphasis on their importance.**
8. In stanza 12, what does it mean to "choose hope"? What is something you have done that was not easy, but in the end, was important and necessary to do? Explain.  
**Various Answers: Based on student experience**
9. What simile is used in stanza 13 to describe a spacecraft? Summarize stanza 13 in your own words.  
**Answer: Simile-changemakers are in a spacecraft, floating like a silver raft**

Example summary: Amanda wants everyone to visualize being in space and witnessing our beautiful blue planet, much like the astronauts did in 1968 for the first time. Seeing its beauty from afar, she is asking us to think of solutions to protect our planet and stop climate change so that we can all continue inhabiting our one and only Earth.

10. At the end of stanza 13, the author states, "All of us bring light to exciting solutions never tried before." Use your science and engineering knowledge to imagine an idea that will help keep our families and planet healthy. Remember that even little changes can add up to a larger impact.

Various Answers:

- Consume less. Arrange a clothing swap at school to reduce waste.
- Come up with a different way to heat water in your home for a shower.
- Pick an item that your family frequently buys. Imagine a new way to package it that reduces waste.

11. In your own words, define 'earthrise'. Why is it important for *all* citizens to take action to stop climate change? List 3 ways you can start helping today.

Answer: Install energy efficient appliances and lightbulbs, reduce water waste, don't waste food, recycle, use renewable energy sources, walk or ride your bike instead of driving

12. What is the theme of this poem? Explain your answer.

Answer: Answers will vary- hope, change, taking action, being informed