

Year 8 Roll of Thunder

Year 8 were asked to think about Amanda Gorman's poem read at the inauguration of Joe Biden and comment on two ideas from the poem that stood out for them. Here are extracts of work from Year 8.2

The Hill We Climb - by Amanda Gorman

This poem was, in summary, is about there being a glimmer of hope in an unforgiving world where we must participate in creating an equal society. Amanda has implies in her poem that Trump has corrupted American society and she seeks a fairer society.

Amanda relates back to the past and the damage it caused, 'It's because being an American is more than a pride we inherit, it's the past we step into and how we repair it.' This quotation means that for any President, they should not be thinking about the glory of America's history, they should focus on the present, what is going on now, and repair the damage caused previously. We must not pretend it did not happen.

Secondly, Amanda directly said 'there is always light' clearly signifying there is always hope, no matter what the situation. The poet uses a rhetorical question to further stress her case, 'where can we find light in this never-ending shade?' This example of figurative language makes the audience question what to do, to find hope in America. This is very effective at encouraging the audience to think about hope and not dwell on division and hatred.

Finally, Amanda's motive was to signal to Biden that changes are to be made in terms of creating an equal and fair society whilst he is in office. He must actively work towards better equality between communities. By Ethan

Firstly, this poem is encouraging. I know this because it says 'For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it'. To 'be' the light means in times of darkness, such as Coronavirus, you always bring kindness and encouragement. In a pandemic the poet sees good things lying ahead for them with the new American President. I know this because on the first line it says there is always light shining. This means that there is always hope. Light is hope. In darkness the light takes over. It always defeats the dark. It is trying to show a positive message and saying that whatever happens, there will always be truth and hope. By Madeleine

I am going to explain what I understood from the poem. The quotation is: "We've braved the belly of the beast, We've learned that quiet isn't always peace" This tells the audience that the world has braved the pandemic and the Trump administration (the belly of the beast) and they got through to the other side stronger. Gorman says that the Americans have managed to survive and tell the tale after the awful Trump administration. That battle is now over and they can look ahead. It tells the audience that they can't neglect the beast or suffer in silence but must speak out and make a difference.

The second quotation I thought had a powerful message was: " if we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birth right" This tells me that if we stop fighting, unite, rather than see division, then we can pass a better country onto the future generations knowing we accomplished something. The poem also shows that even though America has wealth and power it has not used it to help its citizens and the world. She is saying Trump did not help the people and is hoping that Biden does help the people. We all know that America is very powerful in its military and has loads of resources, but they should use that to help bring world peace. Biden must start this ball rolling now. By James