

Amanda Gorman reads 'The Miracle of Morning'

Amanda Gorman wrote her poem 'The Miracle of Morning' in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic in spring 2020. Listen to her recite it in this video.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–j) with the vocabulary (1–10).

Vocabulary

1. in mourning / to mourn
2. a rosary
3. to be tethered
4. to weather
5. despair
6. suffering
7. solidarity
8. in vain
9. woes
10. a burden

Definition

- a. big problems or troubles
- b. to deal successfully with a difficult situation or a problem
- c. something difficult that you have to worry about
- d. agreement with and support for other members of a group
- e. feeling great sadness because someone has died
- f. the feeling that there's no hope and there's nothing you can do to improve a difficult situation
- g. to be connected or tied together
- h. without any result or success
- i. physical or mental pain that someone is feeling
- j. a string of beads that some people use when they pray

Task 1

Write a number (1–6) to put the ideas in the order they are mentioned in the poem.

_____ She believes that we can deal with this difficult new situation together.

_____ The poet believes that when these difficult times end, we will be better, stronger people.

_____ She talks about what the people on her street are doing.

_____ She says we should use this time well and mentions some activities we can do.

_____ At first the poet expected a sad morning, but in fact she felt something positive.

_____ She mentions different jobs for which these times are particularly hard.

Task 2

Put the words in the correct order.

1. different something There's golden morning. on this
2. unknown will weather this We together.
3. we will and disease. defeat As one, both despair
4. solidarity. find must In suffering, we
5. world emerge Our stronger. will
6. we'll When this ends, sweetly. smile

Task 3

Match the words that rhyme.

First word	Second word
1. storming	employees
2. jog	dog
3. alone	warming
4. mend	bend
5. disease	solidarity
6. clarity	unknown

Discussion

Did you enjoy the poem? Have you heard any other of Amanda Gorman's poems?

Answers

Preparation task

1. e
2. j
3. g
4. b
5. f
6. i
7. d
8. h
9. a
10. c

Task 1

- 3 She believes that we can deal with this difficult new situation together.
- 6 The poet believes that when these difficult times end, we will be better, stronger people.
- 2 She talks about what the people on her street are doing.
- 5 She says we should use this time well and mentions some activities we can do.
- 1 At first the poet expected a sad morning, but in fact she felt something positive.
- 4 She mentions different jobs for which these times are particularly hard.

Task 2

1. There's something different on this golden morning.
2. We will weather this unknown together.
3. As one, we will defeat both despair and disease.
4. In suffering, we must find solidarity.
5. Our world will emerge stronger.
6. When this ends, we'll smile sweetly.

Task 3

1. storming, warming
2. jog, dog
3. alone, unknown
4. mend, bend
5. disease, employees
6. clarity, solidarity