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LC28. Interesting People – Amanda Gorman

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level: _____ Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs](#). Find your SDLA number to see all the resources to finish your SDLA.

Section 1: What is Interesting?

Mark everything in the list below that you find interesting. Definition of **Interesting** from [Longman's Dictionary of Contemporary English](#): "if something is interesting, you give it your attention because it seems unusual or exciting or provides information that you did not know about." Key vocabulary words are given in the next section.

- Having a twin sister.
- Writing poetry.
- Writing poetry and performing it for Michelle Obama, Nike ads, and the Super Bowl, to name a few.
- Being raised by a single mother in Los Angeles (L.A.) who is a middle school teacher in Watts.
- Being Black.
- Being a Black activist.
- Overcoming a speech impediment.
- Winning the first ever offered US National Youth Poet Laureate at 19-years-old.
- Winning the first ever offered L.A. Youth Poet Laureate at 16.
- Starting a nonprofit organization that encourages youth leadership and poetry workshops.
- Starting a nonprofit organization when 16 years old.
- Attending Harvard and graduating with a GPA over 3.5 (*cum laude*).
- Speaking at the US Presidential Inauguration.
- Being the youngest poet to ever present at a Presidential Inauguration.
- Being a best-selling author by the age of 23.





Section 2: Vocabulary

Write the vocabulary word next to the meaning of the word.

activist (n)

GPA (n)

speech impediment (n)

laureate (n)

cum laude (adv)

social (adj)

Youth Poet Laureate (n)

Presidential Inauguration (n)

cause (n)

best-selling (adj) author (n)

nonprofit organization (n)

political (adj)

- _____ 1. Relating to the government, politics or public interests of a country.
- _____ 2. A physical problem that affects how you talk.
- _____ 3. A Latin phrase meaning someone graduates with honor and represents the top 25% of students graduating at the same time from the same school.
- _____ 4. A young person talented in written and/or spoken word actively trying to change or improve their community.
- _____ 5. About the quality of people’s lives in human society or divisions of society.
- _____ 6. Someone who has been given an important prize or honor.
- _____ 7. Someone who works hard for social or political change.
- _____ 8. A business that does not try to make money; it supports a social cause and provides a public benefit.
- _____ 9. A writer whose books are bought by millions of people.
- _____ 10. A ceremony to transfer leadership from one president to another.
- _____ 11. Refers to the average grade a student has (Grade Point Average), usually between 0 and 4
- _____ 12. A goal, belief or organization that a group of people support or fight for; issue is synonym.





Section 3: Poetry Analysis

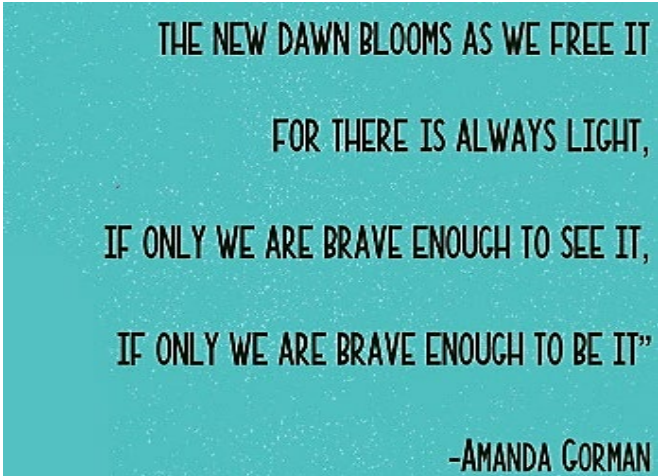


Section 1 describes Amanda Gorman. She has done, or is, all of those things on the list. She jumped to national fame when she presented her poem at President Biden’s Presidential Inauguration in January 2021. At the time, she was 22 years old and the youngest poet to speak at a Presidential Inauguration. The title of the poem was called “The Hill We Climb.”

Like all great poems, “The Hill We Climb” has multiple meanings. [Watch the end of her presentation.](#)



Now, let’s try to apply the ending of her inaugural poem to our life. If you have a guess, please write it down so that you don’t forget. If you have no idea, that is okay. You will discuss these answers with your tutor.



1. What do you see in your mind when you read “dawn blooms”?

2. Usually, “dawn” happens automatically, why do you think we need to “free it”?

3. “Light” often represents hope or love or joy or faith, etc. What do these words mean to you: “For there is always light,”.

4. Why do we need to be “brave enough to **see**” the “light”, in your opinion?

5. What does it mean to you to be “brave enough to **be**” the light? Is there something in your life where you need to be brave enough to be the light?





Section 4: Creating a Mantra

A “mantra” can be a statement repeated often to either relax us or remind us of something. Amanda Gorman uses a mantra before she speaks in public.



[Watch the first minute of her TED Talk she gave when she was 20.](#)

Part 1: Answer Questions about Her TED Talk

6. What are the two questions that Gorman asks students in her poetry workshops?

7. She thinks everyone is excited about poetry. True or False

8. Fill in the blanks for Amanda Gorman’s mantra.

I am the **a)** _____ of **b)** _____ writers, who descended from **c)** _____ fighters, who broke their **d)** _____ and **e)** _____ the **f)** _____. They **g)** _____ me.

9. Amanda Gorman does not get nervous before she speaks in public. True or False

Part 2: Understand Her TED Talk

10. What does the idiom mean “to stand on someone’s shoulders”?

11. What does it mean “to stand for something”?

12. What do you think it means to be a “freedom fighter”?

13. What “chains” do you think she is referring to?

14. Whose shoulders does Gorman feel she stands on?

15. Based on what you have learned about Gorman, describe what you think she stands for.





Part 3: What is **Your** Mantra*





16. Write a sentence or two describing whose shoulders you stand on.

17. Write a sentence or two describing what you stand for.

***Write this in a book you have. Read it before you have to give a presentation. See if it gives you comfort.**

Section 5: What Did I Learn

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do this YET. 	I can do this WITH help. 	I can do this WITHOUT help. 	I can TEACH this to a classmate. 
I can use new vocabulary to describe Amanda Gorman.				
I can understand the ending of Gorman's inaugural poem "The Hill We Climb."				
I can explain whose shoulders I stand on.				
I can tell someone what I stand for.				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.

Good Job!

Now make an appointment

with a tutor on the LLC ESL Tutoring Website

(www.mtsac.edu/llc/passportrewards/llctutoring).








Section 6: Practice with a Tutor!

After completing the self- assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to the tutor. The tutor will review your work with you.

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	Need Practice  (0-1 Point)	Good Job  (2-3 Points)	Excellent Work  (4-5 Points)
Content	Not enough information provided in responses and often does not use correct vocabulary.	Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary.	Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary.
Skill: Speaking	More than 6 mistakes saying words; needs guessing more than 3 times.	Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no guess about meaning.
Oral Fluency	Speaks mostly in phrases, individual words; many pauses.	Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay.

*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on

Possible Points: _____ / 15

Tutor Comments:

Congratulations! Keep going.

You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.

Work on this more.

You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____

