



Earthrise Photo Credit: NASA

On December 24th, 1968 just a few minutes before 10.30 AM (Houston time) astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and William Anders were circling the moon in Apollo 8 when they suddenly became the first humans to witness the Earth rising above the moon's craggy surface. In a rush of excitement they quickly loaded a camera with colour film and took the amazing photograph named "Earthrise."

In 2018, the Inaugural Youth Poet Laureate of the United States **Amanda Gorman** responded with her own unique Earthrise!

(1) Show the photo Earthrise. Tell the exciting story of how it was taken.

(2) Ask your students to write down their answers to the following three questions:

- How does this photograph make you feel?
- What do you notice?
- What do you wonder?

(3) Share the Youtube video of Amanda Gorman reciting her Earthrise poem. Explain that she is the Inaugural Youth Poet Laureate of the United States and when she saw the Earthrise photograph she wrote this poem about what it meant to her.

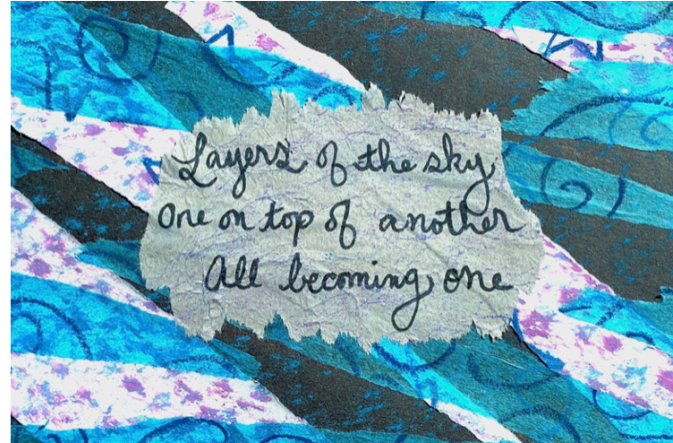
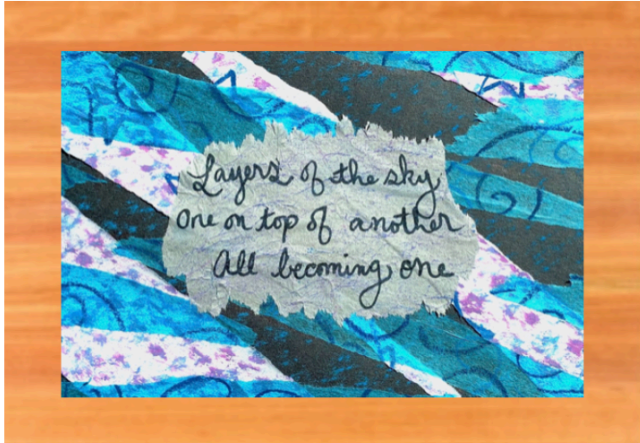
(4) Ask your students to create their own short poem - or sky-ku - in response to Earthrise.. Sky-ku are like haiku but all about our sky! ([What's a Sky-ku?](#)) Then they can decorate it before photographing their work, cropping (if needed) and posting to your Sky Gallery. They can also overlaying text of their poem on a sky photo or original artwork if they like and then post it as an image to your Sky Gallery. **However** this last idea requires an extra step - converting their screenshot file to a jpeg before posting. Be sure to see advice on posting overleaf.

(5) **Home Extension:** IMPORTANT! The civic outreach part of our program is very important and offers unique opportunities for Family Intergenerational Learning. Consider sending a message to parents and guardians that their child will be coming home with this important assignment. Then ask your students to share the NASA photo and their poem with their parents and ask how it makes them feel. They should report back to class.

Posting artwork to your Sky Gallery

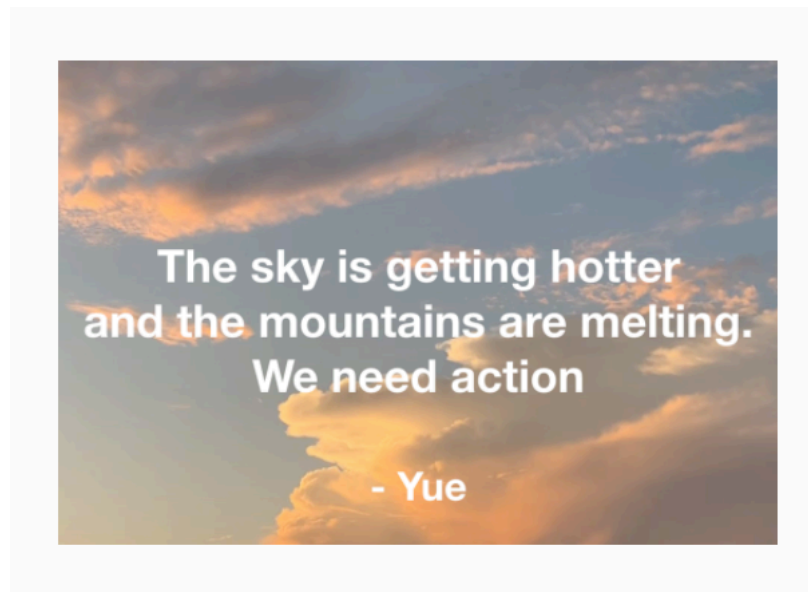
The easiest way to post their work is to ask students to:

1. Write and decorate the poem by hand
2. Lay the work on a table or tape it to a wall
3. Photograph the result
4. Crop out any background
5. And post it like they did their skies



This image —————→ **is cropped to this image**

Students may also choose to create their work as an original image overlayed with their text like this:



However, since such an image is typically captured as a screenshot and the screenshot image file will likely not be a jpeg but a png or similar. This means the file will need to be converted to a **jpeg** before posting to your Sky Gallery. (Sky Galleries only accept jpeg files.) This can easily be done by duplicating the file and saving that duplicate file as a jpeg and then posting the jpeg!