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## Poems by students

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Amanda Gorman is an African American poet. She wrote a poem called “The Hill We Climb.”

The LINC 7/8 class at the Cowichan Intercultural Society in Duncan, BC wanted to celebrate Black History Month in February and National Poetry Month in April.

Seven students wrote poems with the title “The Hill We Climb.” Here are some of the poems. Two other poems are available in the April issue of *The Westcoast Reader*.



This is the LINC 7/8 class.

### “The Hill We Climb”

To the highest mountain I will go up and  
I will go up singing and  
singing with my ancestors, my people  
singing redemption, hope, peace, joy,  
happiness,  
because now we have the commitment  
time,  
a Mexican singing are you ready for the  
change because I will start with mine.  
— by Miguel (from Mexico)

### “The Hill We Climb”

Waking up every morning in a positive mood  
Then all the obstacles come towards me  
The faces I meet on the way  
The incidents I struggle with during the day  
Trying to enjoy it every moment  
But it's not always easy  
Feels like I climb the hill everyday  
The hill that I wish to overcome  
But fail to reach in the evening  
Another day will come to try again though  
— by Yumi (from South Korea)

### “The Hill We Climb”

The virus makes us stay away,  
As bias of ours does anyway  
Now, weary COVID not zoomed yet  
No worry, we have Zoom class yeah  
When marching by us, up the hill  
then in March the virus will disappear  
Vaccines to healthy will come  
Here we go, we overcome!  
— by Jack (from South Korea)

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### “The Hill We Climb”

Nothing will happen unless you take  
action  
Learning a new thing like language is  
difficult especially for adults  
I was laughed at because of my  
pronunciation  
I cause confusion because of the words I  
pick  
Mistakes always make me lose my  
motivation  
But also making mistakes improves my  
English  
Learning English gave me chances to  
learn  
new things that I can't learn if I only speak  
Japanese  
and to make wonderful foreign friends  
who have different cultures  
Sometimes challenges are hard but they  
also bring  
with them overwhelming joy and  
opportunity.  
— by Mei (from Japan)

### “The Hill We Climb”

Going along the street  
you can see  
a ghost, or walking dead.  
It isn't a trick.  
It is true.  
You can't imagine  
how it could spread.  
I saw many people starving,  
looking for food, scratching the waste of  
others.  
How does this happen in a rich land?  
How do we allow a few people  
to steal our treasures, our gentle smiles?  
How does this happen on fertile land?  
How many souls walk, fighting for a bite?  
There are no reasons.  
You won't understand it.  
I can't stand myself knowing that  
my blood is there,  
my lands are there.  
Can you help me  
dry my damp eyes,  
let the world know it?  
There is a wealthy land  
with beautiful gifts  
that God gives us.  
We didn't learn.  
We need to learn.  
Whoever leads the land  
should be a humble man  
with the heart in mind  
and the mind at hand  
putting together wise words.  
— by Zoilabet (from Venezuela)

Submitted by Cowichan Intercultural Society • Photo: LINC 7/8 class

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