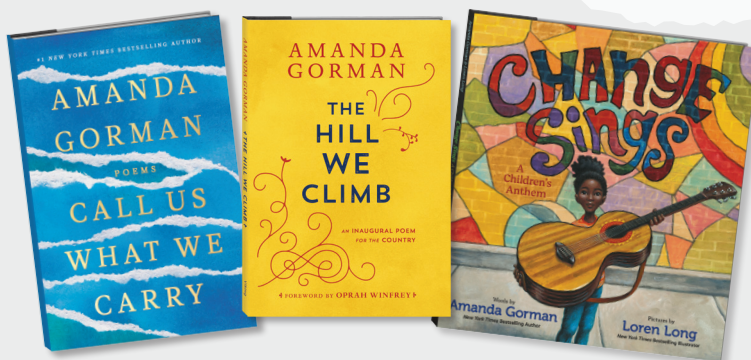


AMANDA GORMAN

Community Read Discussion Guide



Amanda Gorman's books imagine the type of change that can bring us to a more peaceful future, rooted in love and a never-ending pursuit of justice. The questions below provide a jumping off point for discussion for communities or between parents/caregivers and young readers for *Change Sings*, *The Hill We Climb*, and *Call Us What We Carry*.



COMMUNITY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How is poetry or the art of telling a story an act of service to fellow humans?
- What are the first steps that have to happen for change to occur in society?
- Who are some “tried and true dreamers” you have heard about or can remember?
- What do people carry with them that shapes who they are and what they believe? What are some experiences you’ve had that have shaped your beliefs?
- What happened to individuals and communities when the world experienced a global pandemic? What is happening still?
- What are the social and interpersonal rules we create to dictate interactions within community?
- How do individuals shape communities and how are communities a reflection of the individuals that live within them?
- What actions can anyone take that demonstrate their commitment to making “change sing”?
- What are some small acts of service that can carry big implications for shaping the present and the future?
- What change do you personally want to see in the world?
- What talents or gifts do you feel you have that are unique to you? How could you use them to make change?

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- Create a social media post or poster illustrating the change you plan to make in the world. Share it with your community on social using #WeReadGorman or hang the poster in your bookstore or library.
- Many of the poems in *Call Us What We Carry* are inspired by blackout poetry. Create a blackout poem with your community.
- Choose your favorite action depicted on the pages of *Change Sings* (i.e. building a bridge, helping the elderly, or beautifying a neighborhood) or call to action from *Call Us What We Carry*. Work with those in your family or community to identify a local organization that does the same work and volunteer.

