

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE PARTNERS WITH INAUGURAL POET AMANDA GORMAN TO LAUNCH NEW CREATIVE WRITING AWARD FOR POETRY

The Amanda Gorman Award for Poetry opens for submissions October 1, 2021

New York, NY – August 12, 2021 – Penguin Random House, the world’s largest trade book publisher, has partnered with Amanda Gorman, the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history, to launch The Amanda Gorman Award for Poetry, a new creative writing award for poetry for public high school students. The award will recognize a student for an original literary composition in English for poetry with a first-place prize of \$10,000.

“I’m honored to be partnering with Penguin Random House on their poetry award for high school students,” said Amanda Gorman. “As someone who found my love of writing at a young age, I want to continue to foster that same love in the next generation of great poets.”

“As Amanda Gorman’s publisher, we see first-hand the incredible impact her poetry has on readers,” said Jen Loja, President, Penguin Young Readers. “We are thrilled that her work will now be a further inspiration to student poets across America through the Penguin Random House Creative Writing Awards’ newly established annual Amanda Gorman Award for Poetry scholarship competition.”

The Amanda Gorman Poetry Award is one of five creative writing awards given by Penguin Random House. Other categories include fiction/drama; personal essay/memoir; and the Maya Angelou Award for spoken-word. In recognition of the Creative Writing Awards previously being centered in New York City, the competition will award an additional first-place prize to the top entrant from the NYC area. The 2022 competition launches on October 1, and closes on February 1. Current high school seniors who attend public schools in the United States, including the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories, and are planning to attend college – either a two-year or four-year institution – in the fall of 2022 are encouraged to apply.

For 28 years, the Penguin Random House Creative Writing Awards have awarded more than \$2.8 million dollars to public high school students for their original compositions.

To apply and to read more about eligibility and rules, please visit this website: <https://social-impact.penguinrandomhouse.com/our-awards/u-s-creative-writing-awards/>

Winners will be announced and posted on the Penguin Random House Creative Writing Awards website at <https://social-impact.penguinrandomhouse.com/our-awards/u-s-creative-writing-awards/> in June 2022.

Amanda Gorman is the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history. She is a committed advocate for the environment, racial equality, and gender justice. Amanda’s activism and poetry have been featured on the *Today Show*, *PBS Kids*, and *CBS This Morning*, and in the *New York Times*, *Vogue*, and *Essence*. After graduating cum laude from Harvard University, she now lives in her hometown of

Los Angeles. In 2017, Amanda Gorman was appointed the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate by Urban Word – a program that supports Youth Poets Laureate in more than 60 cities, regions and states nationally. Gorman’s performance of her poem “The Hill We Climb” at the 2021 Presidential Inauguration received critical acclaim and international attention. The special edition of her inaugural poem, “The Hill We Climb,” was published in March 2021 and debuted at #1 on the *New York Times*, *USA Today* and *Wall Street Journal* bestsellers list. Amanda appeared on the cover of *TIME* magazine in February 2021 and was the first poet to grace the cover of *Vogue* in their May 2021 issue. She was *Porter Magazine*’s July 2021 cover star and received The Artist Impact Award at the 2021 Backstage at the Geffen Awards. Her debut picture book, *Change Sings*, will be published in September 2021, and her poetry collection, *Call Us What We Carry*, will release in December 2021. Please visit theamandagorman.com.

Penguin Random House, the world’s largest trade book publisher, is dedicated to its mission of nourishing a universal passion for reading by connecting authors and their writing with readers everywhere. The company, which employs more than 10,000 people globally, was formed on July 1, 2013, by Bertelsmann and Pearson. As of April 1, 2020, Bertelsmann is full owner of the company. With more than 300 imprints and brands on six continents, Penguin Random House comprises adult and children’s fiction and nonfiction print and digital English- German- and Spanish-language trade book publishing businesses in more than 20 countries worldwide. With over 15,000 new titles, and more than 600 million print, audio and eBooks sold annually, Penguin Random House’s publishing lists include more than 80 Nobel Prize laureates and hundreds of the world’s most widely read authors.