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# National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SINCE 1982

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Miracle of Morning  
By Amanda Gorman

**Video: Featured Presenter, Amanda Gorman, Youth Poet Laureate**

I thought I'd awaken to a world in mourning.  
Heavy clouds crowding, a society storming.  
But there's something different on this golden morning.  
Something magical in the sunlight, wide and warming.

I see a dad with a stroller taking a jog.  
Across the street, a bright-eyed girl chases her dog.  
A grandma on a porch fingers her rosaries.  
She grins as her young neighbor brings her groceries.

While we might feel small, separate, and all alone,  
Our people have never been more tightly tethered.  
Because the question isn't if we will weather this unknown,  
But how we will weather this unknown together.

So on this meaningful morn, we mourn and we mend.  
Like light, we can't be broken, even when we bend.

As one, we will defeat both despair and disease.  
We stand with healthcare heroes and all employees;  
With families, libraries, waiters, schools, artists;  
Businesses, restaurants, and hospitals hit hardest.

We ignite not in the light, but in lack thereof,  
For it is in loss that we truly learn to love.  
In this chaos, we will discover clarity.  
In suffering, we must find solidarity.

For it's our grief that gives us our gratitude,  
Shows us how to find hope, if we ever shall lose it.  
So don't ignore the pain. Give it purpose. Use it.

Read children's books, dance alone to DJ music.  
Know that this distance will make our hearts grow fonder.  
From a wave of woes our world will emerge stronger.

We'll observe how the burdens braved by humankind  
Are also those moments that make us humans kind;  
Let each dawn find us courageous, brought closer;  
Heeding the light before the fight is over.  
When this ends, we'll smile sweetly, finally seeing  
In testing times, we became the best of beings.