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Poem by JoAnne Growney



Taking the Heat:

A *BrainyQuote* Cento Enriched by Adrienne Rich

What I worry about is climate change.
Severing the world's design.
My father's generation's crisis was fighting

Taking the Heat

Published on Talking Writing (<https://talkingwriting.com>)

Fascism. Ours is fighting climate change.
We really need to kick the carbon habit.

Are humans any smarter than frogs in a pot?
Why do we keep perpetuating the problem?
No matter how rich you are, you can't get healthy air.
I draw the curtains as the sky gets black.
Climate is not changed by dance, libation, or prayer.

Publishing Information

- A cento is a literary work made up of parts from other works. But most of the lines of this cento come from the site *BrainyQuote*, which means their accuracy is suspect. Only the two Adrienne Rich lines were taken from actual poems: "Boundary" and "Storm Warnings" appear in *Collected Early Poems, 1950–1970* by Adrienne Rich (Norton, 1993).
- Here are the cento lines, in order: (1) [Susan George](#) [5]; (2) Adrienne Rich ("Boundary"); (3 and 4) [Nicholas Stern](#) [6]; (5) [David Attenborough](#) [7]; (6) [Jeff Goodell](#) [8]; (7) [Yehuda Berg](#) [9]; (8) [Ma Jun](#) [10]; (9) Adrienne Rich ("Storm Warnings"); (10) [John Wesley Powell](#) [11].

Art Information

- "Arctic Vision of St. Francis" © Janel Houton; used by permission.



Despite learning in poetry classes that art should not be political, JoAnne Growney sometimes uses her verse to speak against climate destruction and for women's rights. A retired mathematics professor, Growney teaches poetry workshops, writes and shares her poems—including the collection *Red Has No Reason* (Plain View Press, 2010)—and enjoys her grandchildren.

For more information, visit JoAnne Growney's blog [Intersections—Poetry with Mathematics](#) [12].

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