

Lars Coddwell  
SCAN

15<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
at UN Climate Change Conference  
Speech by Greta Thunberg

My name is Greta Thunberg. I am 15 years old and I'm from Sweden. I speak on behalf of Climate Justice Now.

Many people say that Sweden is just a small country and it doesn't matter what we do. But I've learned that you are never too small to make a difference and if a few children can get headlines all over the world just by not going to school then imagine what we could all do together if we really wanted to.

But to do that we have to speak clearly. No matter how uncomfortable that may be. You only speak of a green eternal economic growth because you are too scared of being unpopular. You only talk about moving forward with the same bad ideas that got us into this mess. Even when the only sensible thing to do is pull the emergency brake.

You are not mature enough to tell it like it is. Even that burden you leave to us children. But I don't care about being popular. I care about climate justice and the Living Planet. Our civilization is being sacrificed for the opportunity with a very small number of people to continue making enormous amounts of money. Our biosphere is being sacrificed so that rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury. It is the sufferings of the many which pay for the luxuries of the few.

The year 2078 I will celebrate my 75th birthday. If I have children maybe they will spend that day with me. Maybe they will ask me about you. Maybe they will ask why you didn't do anything while there still was time to act. You say you love your children above all else and yet you're stealing their future in front of their very eyes. Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible there is no hope.

We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground and we need to focus on equity. And if solutions within this system are so impossible to find then maybe we should change the system itself. We have not come here to beg world leaders to care. You have ignored us in the past and you will ignore us again. We have run out of excuses and we are running out of time. We have come here to let you know that change is coming whether you like it or not. The real power belongs to the people!

Thank You!

1. Use of pronouns - us, our  
I

Simple use of choice of lexis - in order to communicate effectively

Sacrificed - Dramatic - (repeats) (Luxury)

Suffering - Pain

Stealing - verb - connotes crime.

## Extract from 'The Prelude' by William Wordsworth

One summer evening (led by her) I found  
 A little boat tied to a willow tree  
 Within a rocky cove, its usual home.  
 Straight I unloosed her chain, and stepping in  
 Pushed from the shore. It was an act of stealth  
 And troubled pleasure, nor without the voice  
 Of mountain-echoes did my boat move on;  
 Leaving behind her still, on either side,  
 Small circles glittering idly in the moon,  
 Until they melted all into one track  
 Of sparkling light. But now, like one who rows,  
 Proud of his skill, to reach a chosen point  
 With an unswerving line, I fixed my view  
 Upon the summit of a craggy ridge,  
 The horizon's utmost boundary; far above  
 Was nothing but the stars and the grey sky.  
 She was an elfin pinnace; lustily  
 I dipped my oars into the silent lake,  
 And, as I rose upon the stroke, my boat  
 Went heaving through the water like a swan;  
 When, from behind that craggy steep till then  
 The horizon's bound, a huge peak, black and huge,  
 As if with voluntary power instinct,  
 Upreared its head. I struck and struck again,  
 And growing still in stature the grim shape  
 Towered up between me and the stars, and still,  
 For so it seemed, with purpose of its own  
 And measured motion like a living thing,  
 Strode after me. With trembling oars I turned,  
 And through the silent water stole my way  
 Back to the covert of the willow tree;  
 There in her mooring-place I left my bark, -  
 And through the meadows homeward went, in grave  
 And serious mood; but after I had seen  
 That spectacle, for many days, my brain  
 Worked with a dim and undetermined sense  
 Of unknown modes of being; o'er my thoughts  
 There hung a darkness, call it solitude  
 Or blank desertion. No familiar shapes  
 Remained, no pleasant images of trees,  
 Of sea or sky, no colours of green fields;  
 But huge and mighty forms, that do not live  
 Like living men, moved slowly through the mind  
 By day, and were a trouble to my dreams.

who? → could be mother nature

} Calm & beautiful

Smile of the swan  
 - calm & control.

Personification  
 of nature

→ Panic

Nature (black  
 & huge)

Repetition of  
 struck & struck  
 again.

Depression

Maybe mankind was  
 insignificant.

- Lars Cockwell my source text is ...  
my second text is ...  
and in an article seen to be about issue  
of human relation said to nature and how it  
was changing over time

#### Bullet points for FOA

- Looking at different views on nature and our planet from different times in history 1850's to the present day or more specifically 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018 when Greta Thunberg made her speech at the UN climate conference.
- Main theme of each literary text is different Prelude by William Wordsworth is about feeling insignificant, small and powerless compared to the enormity of nature but also has elements of the narrators depression about what humans are doing to the earth. The second text is a speech about climate change and climate justice made by Greta Thunberg a sixteen-year-old girl from Sweden. Who has become world famous her courage to speak out against it.
- It is made evident that the boat extract of William Wordsworth's Prelude is about feeling insignificant and powerless to nature by quotes like "black and huge" this is a simile describing the mountain the narrator saw on their sneaky evening row and shows how the narrator perceived the mountain as a giant beast and the quote "I struck and struck again" shows that the more he rows away from the mountain the more of it he sees and the more powerless he feels in the presence of nature. Wordsworth is really emphasizing how small he felt in the presence of nature, Greta Thunberg is doing nearly the opposite.
- In her speech Greta doesn't talk about how massive nature is and how powerless human kind are to nature instead she talks about how fragile it is and how we as developed countries have a duty to protect it, for our own sake and for future generations, this can clearly be seen in the quote "you say you love your children above all else and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes".  
*↳ an intense verb connotes to illegal activity*
- Another thing that is quite interesting about Greta Thunberg's speech is that she uses collective pronouns a lot, for example "we" and "our". This makes the speech very hard to disagree with as it is so inclusive.
- It is interesting that our perspectives on nature has changed so drastically in the past 170 or so years as a species we have gone from fearing and respecting nature to having the technology and short sightedness to nearly destroy it.
- Both texts have fear as a main theme throughout, Greta's fear is that we won't act on climate change on time to make a difference "you have ignored us in the past and you will ignore us again". Wordsworth's fear is being negligible compared to what he sees as the most powerful force on earth, nature. This can be seen in the quote "o'er my thoughts There hung a darkness"
- Both texts were written in a time of drastic change in the environment Wordsworth's poem was written during the industrial revolution and has a depressed tone too it after the Volta, the narrator has come to the realisation that we are destroying the environment and has fallen into a depression about it.

basically implying:

Romantic  
poet

movement  
for industrial  
revolution

against this was critical of

stealing:

- Connotes crime → crimes against humanity
- Intense verb → urgency of the problem of climate change