

## [Taking the Heat](#) [1]

March 19, 2018 [Featured Poetry](#) [2]

[Science and Society](#) [3]

[Nature](#) [4]

### 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://mail.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].

**Source URL:** <https://mail.talkingwriting.com/taking-heat>

### Links:

- [1] <https://mail.talkingwriting.com/taking-heat>
- [2] <https://mail.talkingwriting.com/talkingwriting-categories/featured-poetry>
- [3] <https://mail.talkingwriting.com/tw-channels-and-categories/science-and-society>
- [4] <https://mail.talkingwriting.com/tw-channels-and-categories/nature>

## Taking the Heat

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

---

- [5] [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/susan\\_george\\_245187](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/susan_george_245187)
- [6] [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/nicholas\\_stern\\_516735](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/nicholas_stern_516735)
- [7] [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/david\\_attenborough\\_595245](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/david_attenborough_595245)
- [8] [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/jeff\\_goodell\\_508681](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/jeff_goodell_508681)
- [9] [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/yehuda\\_berg\\_536662](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/yehuda_berg_536662)
- [10] [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/ma\\_jun\\_734696](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/ma_jun_734696)
- [11] [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/john\\_wesley\\_powell\\_672652](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/john_wesley_powell_672652)
- [12] <https://poetrywithmathematics.blogspot.com/>