



## Anthropocene Evacuation List Poem

Because we live in the time of the parenthesis, the time after the death of the old gods and before the birth of the new, there is a little transition underway. The original bioregionalists, of whom Gary Snyder was one, believed that we live on this continent (North America) like invaders. If the air goes bad we can move to Idaho. If the housing prices get too high, we can make a killing on our house and move to Cleveland. If crime's too high, we can move to Arizona. If the water dries up or the market for it in our neighborhood is captured by Wall Street hedge funds, we can move to Portland &c &c. We do not really live here as if we're ready to die for this place and add that up and you get biosphere peril.

For Brenda Hillman, the threat of wildfires was high in her Northern California neighborhood during the Covid pandemic and so she had the drill down:

1. Be ready to evacuate. Take only a single vehicle to help reduce traffic jams.
2. Make sure that you have at least 3/4 full tank of fuel.
3. Park your vehicle: (a) In a driveway facing the street, not in a garage. If you have a driveway gate, leave it open or (b) on the street in the direction of departure.
4. Keep vehicle keys in your pocket.
5. Keep plenty of drinking water in your vehicle.
6. Load time-sensitive medications into the vehicle. Unopened insulin can be stored at room temperature for up to 28 days.
7. Keep an emergency kit & first aid kit in your vehicle.
8. Pre-load your vehicle with Go-Bags, keepsake items & small toys for your children.
9. Plan to evacuate before a mandatory order is issued especially if you need more time.
10. Help & pick up neighbors who need assistance evacuating.

**For more information on wildfire preparedness, visit:**

**[www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3627/Wildfire-Information](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3627/Wildfire-Information)**

Essentially it is a list poem and there are many ways to create one of those. Brenda in this poem plays it rather straight, which could be a



method you employ in this exercise. Maybe there is a real chance of a flood, or hurricane, or earthquake where you live. Do you have a plan? Do you even know what the possible threats are to your home? If no, that's a good place to start your research. You can have fun with this, as Christopher Smart did in his list poem cited in the excellent entry in the *Handbook of Poetic Forms*.

But maybe the exit has less to do with place and more to do with SELF. What things do you need to take care of before ejecting your soul from this boat of meat to which you've grown accustomed? This information could be helpful to the people who have to collect all of your shit and drag it to Goodwill after you are on your way to Heaven.

Either way, give it to us numbered or not, escaping the disaster, or this realm. Brenda did it in nine lines. I say shoot for 9-12 and know this is in the postcard-length neighborhood, so could be one way you tackle the postcard assignment, or more than one if you get inspired.

### Works Cited

<https://paulenelson.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/List-Poem.pdf>

[NY Times Hedge Fund Story](#)

Brenda Hillman, *In a Few Minutes Before Later*



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