



Earth from Space Poem

NASA's Apollo 8 was the first space mission in which human beings saw the earth from space. Colonel Frank Borman, the Command Pilot of the mission, said: “What they should have sent was poets because I don’t think we captured it in its entirety, the grandeur of what we had seen.” Your task is to watch the film “Earthrise” by Emmanuel Vaughn Lee and take Colonel Borman up on his challenge, capturing the grandeur of witnessing earth from space. What a paradigm shift this has been for human beings!

Write a poem about earth from the perspective of seeing it from space. What thoughts does a galactic view of earth conjure in you? What shapes of land masses are recognizable to you from the view of the Apollo 8 crew? What feelings arise when you see a set of white men in suits, albeit “in color” on TV discussing these matters? What’s going on down there?!?

Many methods to accomplish such a poem are available to you and I can already hear the “ground control to Major Tom” references coming on. Could you transcribe the film’s text and do an erasure, bringing out the subtext of such a task? Could you take the quote from Colonel Borman, write it down the left-hand margin and write a Phrase Acrostic? Maybe a concrete poem? (The Apollinaire poem is a classic, and a favorite of mine. Be sure to click through if you do now know that one.) Consider awe.

Extra points for you if you have a current serial poem/saturation job/multi-decade research project going and can fit this poem into that context.

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4:37pm
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Works Cited

<https://emergencemagazine.org/film/earthrise/>

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