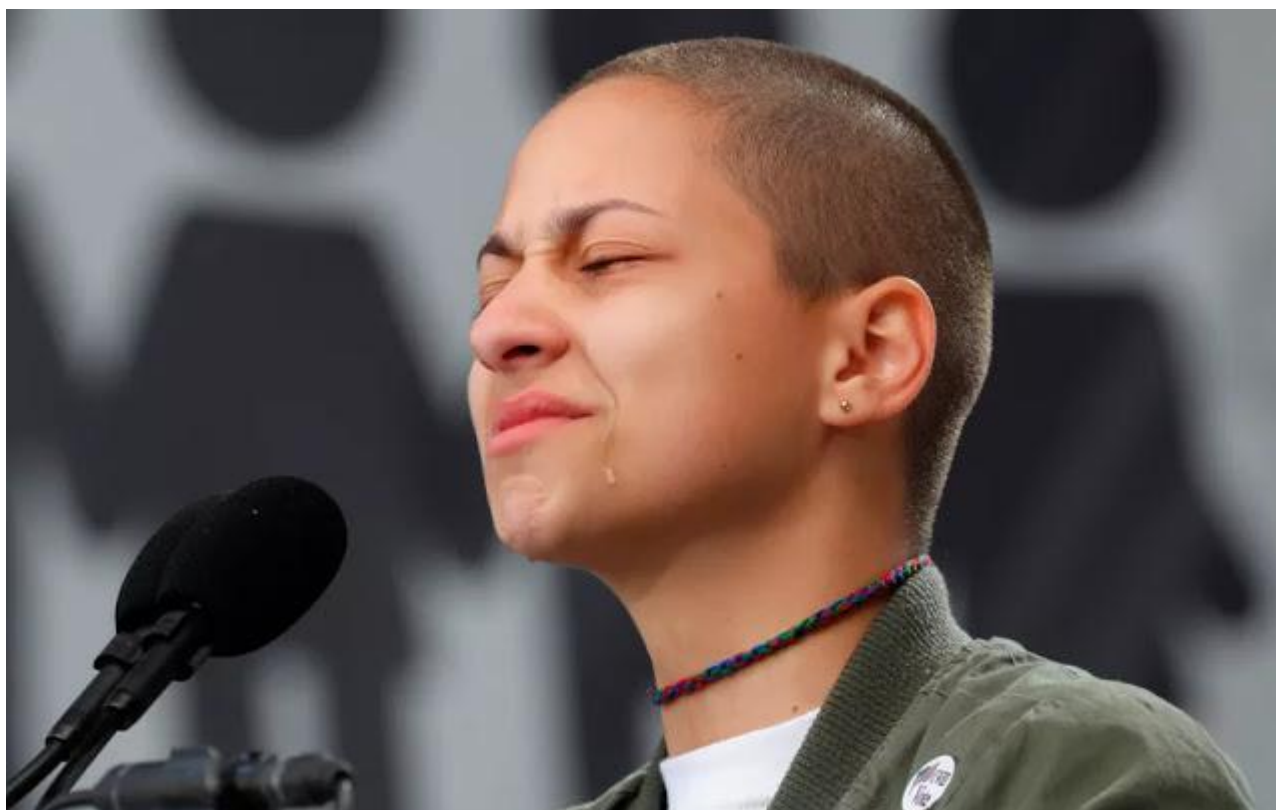


EMMA GONZALES & THE MARCH FOR OUR LIVES MOVEMENT



Since the mass shooting on Valentine's Day at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida, in which a former student of the school killed seventeen students and staff with a legally acquired semiautomatic rifle, several of the survivors have become veteran public speakers. Among them 17-year-old Emma Gonzales who, during the March for Our Lives rally in Washington D.C., galvanized the crowd with her words and, especially, with her silence.

[LINK TO THE VIDEO OF EMMA GONZALES'S SPEECH](#)

TASK 1. READ AND COMPLETE

Read the report of the event below and complete the first part of the text with the given words:

Shook responsibility shaved television silence survivor victims murdered fell gun

PART I

Parkland high-school-shooting 1., Emma Gonzalez, galvanized a student revolt against 2. violence with a fiery speech calling out NRA(*)-bought politicians, just a few days after a disturbed young man 3.17 of her peers—in six minutes and 20 seconds. At Saturday's March For Our Lives in Washington, Gonzalez galvanized a movement with silence.

She recited the names of all 17 Parkland 4. and then she stood mute, tears streaming down her cheeks, her eyes sometimes closed. The crowd, rooting for the poised young woman with the 5. head and wearing a braided choker, grew confused. A few minutes earlier, a nervous Parkland classmate had actually vomited on stage during her speech, and then recovered with world-class aplomb. "I just threw up on international 6. and

it feels great!" the brave Samantha Fuentes told the crowd. Was Gonzalez having a case of nerves? Next to me, Parkland resident and substitute teacher Debbi Schapiro watched her anxiously, then 7..... her head and murmured, "This is too much 8.for these kids." In the crowd beneath Gonzalez, a few students tried to start the chant "Never again," but it faded quickly. Spontaneously, they 9.silent and simply held high their signs of protest. Behind us, people lifted their cell phones to record the unlikely 10.

Gonzalez finally spoke. "Since the time that I came out here, it has been 6 minutes and 20 seconds," she said. "Fight for your lives before it's someone else's job."

(*) *the National Rifle Association, an organization founded in 1871 that stands for the protection of the Second Amendment which guarantees a citizen's right to keep and bear arms*

PART II

Emma Gonzalez's remarkable poise was one revelation of Saturday's march. I met her before it began, in the press tent, where she broke into a smile listening to the pre-march music playlist. "Yes! I got Celia Cruz on this!" Nodding to the beat, she fielded questions from a dozen national reporters. About the flurry of inadequate but promising gun-safety measures passed since Parkland, she says: "It feels like: they tried to take a giant step—and then they tripped. I'm not gonna knock it, it's a good first start." That's the kind of "we'll get 'em next time" equanimity activists normally take years, or even decades, to perfect.

The movement, Gonzalez tells reporters, "is probably gonna be years, and at this point, I don't know that I mind. Nothing that's worth it is easy. We're going against the largest gun lobby. We could very well die trying to do this. But we could very well die not trying to do this, too. So why not die for something rather than nothing?"

On that note, a media minder whisked Gonzalez away, as fellow student David Hogg, another movement star, approached. Hogg, 17, wore a stone-colored suit and an earpiece. Then he was whisked away, too; the program was about to begin.

(...)

The second revelation of the day, for me, is how hard the Parkland students have worked to meld their cause to the cause of young black people, who disproportionately suffer gun violence. I met Curtis Kelly, the father of 16-year-old Zaire Kelly, shot during a robbery in Washington, DC, last year as he was coming home from a college prep class. He says the Parkland students have been working with students at Kelly's Thurgood Marshall High School; his son Zion Kelly, Zaire's surviving twin, spoke at the rally.

Zion got choked up talking about his brother. "Can you imagine what it's like to lose someone that close to you?" The students on the stage cheered him on, as his father hugged one of the many friends who'd come out to the event. I have not done the kind of reporting that would let me say with certainty that the Parkland movement—and it is a movement—has done all it can to bring in gun violence victims of color. But Cullen says "behind the scenes," that's how many of the Parkland survivors spend much of their time. "They really see the bigger picture. They know there's more power if they join forces with kids from Chicago, and everywhere—that's where victory is."

Certainly the diversity of speakers was impressive—no more than when Parkland survivor Jaclyn Corin introduced a surprise guest: Yolanda Renee King, the 9-year-old granddaughter of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Looking eerily like her grandfather, she led a chant, smiling and cheering, "Spread the word! Have you heard? All across the nation, we are going to be a great generation!"

(...)

When the program was over, people milled about, almost as if they didn't want to leave. And again I ran into Parkland resident Debbi Schapiro, who had worried that Emma Gonzalez's six-or-so-minutes of silence represented trauma, not a deliberate message. She seemed relieved it was over. "It was phenomenal; it went straight to the heart," Schapiro said. "We are a broken community. One that is going to band together. But we are truly broken."

I remind Schapiro that she first thought Gonzalez's silence represented anxiety, that she had taken on "too much." She tells me: "It is too much. They're children. I mean, they chose to do this. But they've lost their childhoods."

By Joan Walsh, *The Nation*

TASK 2. READING COMPREHENSION

Read the whole article from beginning to end and answer the following questions:

1. What happened on Valentine's Day 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida?
2. What kind of event was "March for Our Lives" in Washington? What was its aim?
3. Who is Emma Gonzales?
4. What did she do during the Washington event?
5. The Nation reporter, Joan Walsh, met Emma before the march began. What was the girl doing?
6. How long will the fight for gun control last according to Emma?
7. What was the second revelation the reporter had on the day of the Washington event?
8. Who is Debbi Schapiro, whose words the reporter includes in her article?
9. What did Schapiro think of Emma's 6-minutes' silence at first?
10. What did people do when the program of the Washington event was over? What was the impression the reporter got?

TASK 3. WATCH THE VIDEO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Emma Gonzalez, Cameron Kasky, and Jaclyn Corin survived the recent shooting at their high school in Parkland, Florida, were Ellen DeGeneres's guests, when they were organizing the great event in Washington

[LINK TO THE VIDEO](#)

QUESTIONS

1. When is the event going to take place?
2. What kind of event is it?
3. What gadget did the students design for the event and give to Ellen in this video?
4. What inspired the students to organize the event?
5. Who supports the students in their protest? What does Cameron say about it? What does Ellen say about it?
6. Who donated \$50, 000 dollars to the movement?

DISCUSSION

1. What is your opinion on the gun control issue in the USA?
2. What do you think should be done to reduce the phenomenon of school shootings? How can they be prevented?
3. Why are these events so frequent in American schools?
4. Did you see the March for Our Lives Washington event on the news?
5. What do you think of the survivors of the shooting in Parkland who are now leading the movement of protest?
6. Though these young people can count on support from a huge number of people, they are also ostracized, boycotted and attacked on a personal level by the media in order to make them less relatable. Why do you think that is happening?