

For the Children

Gary Snyder

The rising hills, the slopes,
of statistics
lie before us.
The steep climb
of everything, going up,
up, as we all
go down.

In the next century
or the one beyond that,
they say,
are valley, pastures,
we can meet there in peace
if we make it.

To climb these coming crests
one word to you, to
you and your children:

stay together
learn the flowers
go light

GARY SNYDER is a Zen poet, environmental activist, and professor emeritus at the University of California, Davis. He has published more than eighteen books of poetry and prose, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Turtle Island* (1975) and his most recent book, *Back on the Fire: Essays* (2008). He has received an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, the Bollingen Prize, a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, the Bess Hokin Prize, the Levinson Prize from *Poetry*, the Robert Kirsch Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Shelley Memorial Award.
