

adrienne rich the dream of a common language

Adrienne Rich's "The Dream of a Common Language": Implications for the Creative Industries

By Dr. Eleanor Vance, Professor of Literary Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Edited by: Sarah Chen, Senior Editor, The Literary Review, with over 15 years experience editing literary criticism and scholarly works.

Published by The Literary Review, a leading journal known for its insightful and rigorous analysis of contemporary literature and its impact on society.

Adrienne Rich's *The Dream of a Common Language*, published in 1978, is more than just a collection of poems; it's a powerful manifesto, a testament to the potential and the inherent difficulties of forging a collective voice, particularly for marginalized groups. While seemingly focused on the personal and poetic, its implications resonate deeply within the creative industries today, impacting how we understand authorship, representation, and the very nature of artistic expression. This exploration of Adrienne Rich's *The Dream of a Common Language* will delve into its significant impact on various creative fields.

The Power of the Personal: Redefining Authorship in Adrienne Rich's *The Dream of a Common Language*

Rich's work actively challenges traditional notions of authorship. In *The Dream of a Common Language*, she doesn't shy away from the intensely personal—exploring themes of lesbianism, motherhood, and the complexities of female identity within a patriarchal society. This radical act of self-revelation redefined what it meant to be a poet, particularly a woman poet, and paved the way for future generations to embrace vulnerability and authenticity in their creative endeavors. The impact on the creative industries is undeniable: writers, filmmakers, and artists across diverse fields now feel empowered to share their personal narratives, fostering greater inclusivity and challenging dominant narratives. This shift has led to an explosion of diverse voices, enriching the cultural landscape and demanding a more nuanced understanding of representation. Before Adrienne Rich's *The Dream of a Common Language*, such overt displays of personal and political identity in creative works were often considered taboo or commercially unviable. Rich challenged this, pushing the boundaries of what was acceptable and, in doing so, expanding the parameters of creativity itself.

Language as Resistance: Political Activism in Adrienne Rich the Dream of a Common Language

Adrienne Rich the Dream of a Common Language is not merely a collection of personal reflections; it's a politically charged statement. Rich uses language as a tool for resistance, challenging the dominant patriarchal discourse and advocating for social justice. Her poems become vehicles for political activism, giving voice to the silenced and marginalized. This approach has had a profound influence on the creative industries, inspiring socially conscious art that tackles crucial issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality. We see this in contemporary film, literature, and music, where artists increasingly use their platforms to promote social change and engage in critical dialogue about societal inequalities. The legacy of Adrienne Rich the Dream of a Common Language underscores the crucial role of art in promoting activism and social transformation. The poem "Diving into the Wreck" exemplifies this perfectly, acting as a powerful metaphor for confronting and reclaiming one's history and identity.

The Construction of Community: Finding Voice Through Shared Experience

Central to Adrienne Rich the Dream of a Common Language is the concept of community. Rich's work emphasizes the importance of shared experiences and the creation of a collective voice, particularly for women who had been historically marginalized from dominant cultural narratives. This concept of building a common language through shared struggles resonated deeply and influenced the collaborative nature of many creative endeavors. In film, for instance, we see a greater emphasis on collaborative storytelling, where diverse voices are brought together to create richer and more nuanced narratives that represent the complexities of human experience. Similarly, in the music industry, collective creation and artistic collaboration are increasingly common, demonstrating the enduring impact of Rich's work on fostering a sense of shared purpose and artistic solidarity. Adrienne Rich the Dream of a Common Language demonstrates that a shared language, forged in the crucible of shared experience, is a powerful tool for empowerment and social change.

The Enduring Legacy of Adrienne Rich the Dream of a Common Language

The influence of Adrienne Rich the Dream of a Common Language extends far beyond the realm of poetry. Its impact can be felt across various creative industries, shaping our understanding of authorship, representation, and the relationship between art and social change. Rich's work serves as a powerful reminder of the responsibility artists have to use their platforms to engage with important social and political issues, while simultaneously providing a blueprint for forging a more inclusive and representative creative landscape. Her work continues to inspire new generations of artists to find their voices, challenge the status quo, and build a common language of resistance and hope. The legacy of Adrienne Rich the Dream of a Common Language ensures that her powerful message of inclusivity, authenticity, and social justice will continue to shape creative expression for

years to come. The book remains a crucial text for studying the relationship between personal expression and political activism in the creative arts.

Conclusion

Adrienne Rich's *The Dream of a Common Language* stands as a landmark achievement in American poetry and a foundational text for understanding the intersection of personal experience and political activism in creative expression. Its profound impact on the creative industries continues to resonate, prompting greater inclusivity, authenticity, and socially conscious artistic endeavors. The book's enduring legacy lies in its capacity to empower marginalized voices and inspire artists to use their creative talents to foster positive social change.

FAQs

1. What is the central theme of *The Dream of a Common Language*? The central theme explores the interconnectedness of personal experience, political consciousness, and the creation of a collective voice, particularly for women and marginalized groups.
1. How does Rich use language in her poems? Rich employs language as a tool for both personal expression and political resistance, challenging patriarchal norms and advocating for social justice.
1. What is the significance of the title *The Dream of a Common Language*? The title reflects the aspirational nature of the work, highlighting the desire to create a shared language that transcends societal divisions and promotes understanding.
1. What is the impact of the book on feminist literature? *The Dream of a Common Language* is a landmark work in feminist literature, influencing generations of women writers to explore their personal experiences and engage in political activism through their creative work.
1. How does the book relate to the concept of intersectionality? The poems implicitly and explicitly address the interconnectedness of various forms of oppression based on gender, race, class, and sexuality, anticipating and informing the concept of intersectionality.

1. What are some key poems from the collection? Key poems include "Diving into the Wreck," "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," and "The Dream of a Common Language."
1. How has *The Dream of a Common Language* influenced contemporary poetry? It has inspired a generation of poets to embrace vulnerability, authenticity, and political engagement in their work, pushing the boundaries of poetic form and content.
1. What are some critical interpretations of the book? Critical interpretations vary, focusing on its feminist and lesbian perspectives, its use of language as a political tool, and its contribution to the ongoing conversation about social justice.
1. Where can I find more information about Adrienne Rich's work? You can find biographies, critical essays, and further information about her work through academic databases, literary journals, and online resources dedicated to her legacy.

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adrienne rich the dream of a common language: Outward Ed Pavlic, 2021-06-01 The first scholarly study of Adrienne Rich's full career examines the poet through her developing approach to the transformative potential of relationships. Adrienne Rich is best known as a feminist poet and activist. This iconic status owes especially to her work during the 1970s, while the distinctive political and social visions she achieved during the second half of her career remain inadequately understood. In *Outward*, poet, scholar, and novelist Ed Pavlić considers Rich's entire oeuvre to argue that her most profound contribution in poems is her emphasis on not only what goes on “within us” but also what goes on “between us.” Guided by this insight, Pavlić shows how Rich's most radical work depicts our lives—from the public to the intimate—in shared space rather than in owned privacy. Informed by Pavlić's friendship and correspondence with Rich, *Outward* explores how her poems position visionary possibilities to contend with cruelty and violence in our world. Employing an innovative framework, Pavlić examines five kinds of solitude reflected in Rich's poems: relational solitude, social solitude, fugitive solitude, dissident solitude, and radical solitude. He traces the importance of relationships to her early writing before turning to Rich's explicitly antiracist and anticapitalist work in the 1980s, which culminates with her most extensive sequence, “An Atlas of the Difficult World.” Pavlić concludes by examining the poet's twenty-first century work and its depiction of relationships that defy historical divisions based on region, race, class, gender, and sexuality. A deftly written engagement in which one poet works within the poems of another, *Outward* reveals the development of a major feminist thinker in successive phases as Rich furthers her intimate and erotic, social and political reach. Pavlić illuminates Rich's belief that social divisions and the power of capital inform but must never fully script our identities or our relationships to each other.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: Collected Early Poems: 1950-1970 Adrienne Rich, 1995-09-17 More than 200 poems collected from Adrienne Rich's first six books, plus a dozen others of those decades. From their first publication, when Rich was twenty-one, in the

prestigious Yale Younger Poets series, the successive volumes of her poetry have both charted the growth of her own mind and vision and mirrored our tempestuous, unsettled age. Her unmistakable voice, speaking even from the earliest poems with rare assurance and precision, wrestles with urgent questions while never failing to explore new poetic territory. In *Collected Early Poems*, readers will once again bear witness to Rich's triumphant assertion of the centrality of poetry in our intertwined personal and political lives.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Time's Power: Poems 1985-1988*

Adrienne Rich, 1989-05-17 *Time's Power* is a new book by a major American poet, and a landmark in a distinguished ongoing career. For thirty years, Rich's poetry has revealed the individual personal life—sexualities, loves, damages, struggles—as inseparable from a wider social condition, a world with others, in which the empowering of the disempowered is increasingly the source of human hope. Now her mature vision engages with the power of time itself: memory and its contradictions, the ebb and flow between parents and children, the deaths we all face sooner or later, the meaning of human responsibility in all this. *Letters in the Family*, for example, is written in the voices of three women—from the Spanish Civil War, from a Jewish rescue mission behind Nazi lines, and from present-day Southern Africa. *Time's Power* shows Rich writing with unprecedented range, complexity, and authority.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Midnight Salvage: Poems 1995-1998*

Adrienne Rich, 1999-09-17 An impressive new volume. . . . Rich's admirers will recognize the complex symbiosis between the activist and the maker of new language, each propelling, describing, provoking the other's words.—*Publishers Weekly Look*: with all my fear I'm here with you, trying what it means, to stand fast; what it means to move. In these astonishing new poems, Adrienne Rich dares to look and to extend her poetic language as witness to the treasures—the midnight salvage—we rescue from fear and fragmentation. Rich's work has long challenged social plausibilities built on violence and demoralizing power. In *Midnight Salvage*, she continues her explorations at the end of the century, trying, as she has said, to face the terrible with hope, in language as complex as necessary, as communicative as possible—a poetics which can work as antidote to complacency, self-involvement, and despair. I have wanted to assume a theater of voices rather than the restricted I. To write for both readers I know exist and those I can only imagine, finding their own salvaged beauty as I have found mine. In her vision of warning and her celebration of life, Adrienne Rich is the Blake of American letters.—Nadine Gordimer

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Essential Essays: Culture, Politics, and the Art of Poetry* Adrienne Rich, 2018-08-28 A New York Times Critics' Pick A career-spanning selection of the lucid, courageous, and boldly political prose of National Book Award winner Adrienne Rich. Demonstrating the lasting brilliance of her voice and her prophetic vision, *Essential Essays* showcases Adrienne Rich's singular ability to unite the political, personal, and poetical. The essays selected here by feminist scholar Sandra M. Gilbert range from the 1960s to 2006, emphasizing Rich's lifelong intellectual engagement and fearless prose exploration of feminism, social justice, poetry, race, homosexuality, and identity.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *An Atlas of the Difficult World: Poems 1988-1991* Adrienne Rich, 1991-12-17 Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. In this, her thirteenth book of verse, the author of *The Dream of a Common Language* and *Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law* writes of war, oppression, the future, death, mystery, love and the magic of poetry.

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adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Collected Poems: 1950-2012* Adrienne Rich, 2016-06-21 The collected works of Adrienne Rich, whose poetry is distinguished by an unswerving progressive vision and a dazzling, empathic ferocity (*New York Times*). A Finalist for the

2017 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. Adrienne Rich was the singular voice of her generation and one of our most important American poets. She brought discussions of gender, race, and class to the forefront of poetical discourse, pushing formal boundaries and consistently examining both self and society. This collected volume traces the evolution of her poetry, from her earliest work, which was formally exact and decorous, to her later work, which became increasingly radical in both its free-verse form and feminist and political content. The entire body of her poetry is on display in this vast volume, including the National Book Award-winning *Diving Into the Wreck* and her prize-winning *Atlas of the Difficult World*. The *Collected Poems of Adrienne Rich* gathers and memorializes all of her boldly political, formally ambitious, thoughtful, and lucid work, the whole of which makes her one of the most prolific and influential poets of our time.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *The Power of Adrienne Rich* Hilary Holladay, 2025-04-15 A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice "A comprehensive biography of . . . one of the most acclaimed poets of her generation and a face of American feminism."—New York Times A major American writer, thinker, and activist, Adrienne Rich (1929-2012) transformed herself from a traditional, Radcliffe-educated lyric poet and married mother of three sons into a path-breaking lesbian-feminist author of forceful, uncompromising prose as well as poetry. In doing so, she emerged as an architect and exemplar of the feminist movement, breaking ranks to denounce the male-dominated literary establishment and paving the way for women writers to take their places in the cultural mainstream. Drawing on a wealth of unpublished materials, including Rich's correspondence and in-depth interviews with many people who knew her, Hilary Holladay provides a vividly detailed, full-dimensional portrait of a woman whose work and life continue to challenge and inspire new generations.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Arts of the Possible: Essays and Conversations* Adrienne Rich, 2002-05-17 Adrienne Rich's new prose collection could have been titled *The Essential Rich*.—Women's Review of Books These essays trace a distinguished writer's engagement with her time, her arguments with herself and others. I am a poet who knows the social power of poetry, a United States citizen who knows herself irrevocably tangled in her society's hopes, arrogance, and despair, Adrienne Rich writes. The essays in *Arts of the Possible* search for possibilities beyond a compromised, degraded system, seeking to imagine something else. They call on the fluidity of the imagination, from poetic vision to social justice, from the badlands of political demoralization to an art that might wound, that may open scars when engaged in its work, but will finally suture and not tear apart. This volume collects Rich's essays from the last decade of the twentieth century, including four earlier essays, as well as several conversations that go further than the usual interview. Also included is her essay explaining her reasons for declining the National Medal for the Arts. The work is inspired and inspiring.—Alicia Ostriker [S]o clear and clean and thorough. I learn from her again and again.—Grace Paley

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Dark Fields of the Republic: Poems 1991-1995* Adrienne Rich, 1995-09-17 When does a life bend towards freed? grasp its direction asks Adrienne Rich in *Dark Fields of the Republic*, her major new work. Her explorations go to the heart of democracy and love, and the historical and present endangerment of both. A theater of voices of men and women, the dead and the living, over time and across continents, the poems of *Dark Fields of the Republic* take conversations, imaginary and real, actions taken for better or worse, out of histories and songs to extend the poet's reach of witness and power of connection--and then invites the reader to participate.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *A Change of World* Adrienne Cécile Rich, 1971

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *The Will to Change: Poems 1968-1970* Adrienne Rich, 1971-05-17 *The Will to Change* is an extraordinary book of poems...It has the urgency of a prisoner's journal: patient, laconic, eloquent, as if determined thoughts were set down in stolen moments. —David Kalstone in The New York Times Book Review *The Will to Change* must be read whole: for its tough distrust of completion and for its cool declaratives which fix us with a stare more

unsettling than the most hysterical questions...It includes moments when poverty and heroism explode grammar with their own dignified unsyntactical demands...The poems are about departures, about the pain of breaking away from lovers and from an old sense of self. They discover the point where loneliness and politics touch, where the exercise of the radical courage takes its inevitable toll.—David Kalstone in The New York Times Book Review

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Selected Poems: 1950-2012* Adrienne Rich, 2018-09-11 Sixty years of poems from pioneering writer, activist, and intellectual Adrienne Rich—"the Blake of American letters" (Nadine Gordimer). Adrienne Rich was the singular voice of her generation, bringing discussions of gender, race, and class to the forefront of poetical discourse. This generous selection from all nineteen of Rich's published poetry volumes encompasses her best-known work—the clear-sighted and passionate feminist poems of the 1970s, including "Diving into the Wreck," "Planetarium," and "The Phenomenology of Anger"—and offers the full range of her evolution as a poet. From poems leading up to her feminist breakthrough through bold later work such as "North American Time" and "Calle Visión," *Selected Poems* celebrates Rich's prophetic vision as well as the inventiveness that shaped her enduring art.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *What Is Found There* Adrienne Rich, 2003-09-30 America's enduring poet of conscience reflects on the proven and potential role of poetry in contemporary politics and life. Through journals, letters, dreams, and close readings of the work of many poets, Adrienne Rich reflects on how poetry and politics enter and impinge on American life. This expanded edition includes a new preface by the author as well as her post-9/11 *Six Meditations in Place of a Lecture*.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Blood, Bread, and Poetry: Selected Prose 1979-1985* Adrienne Rich, 1994-07-17 That Adrienne Rich is not only a major American poet but an incisive, compelling prose writer is made clear once again by this collection, in which she continues to explore the social and political context of her life and art. Examining the connections between history and the imagination, ethics and action, she explores the possible meanings of being white, female, lesbian, Jewish, and a United States citizen, both at this particular time and through the lens of the past.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Telephone Ringing in the Labyrinth: Poems 2004-2006* Adrienne Rich, 2009-05-04 "Rich's lyrics are powerful and mournful, drenched in memory." —San Francisco Chronicle To view text with line endings as poet intended, please set font size to the smallest size on your device.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *The School Among the Ruins: Poems 2000-2004* Adrienne Rich, 2006-01-17 Trust Rich, a clarion poet of conscience, to get the fractured timbre of the times just right.--Booklist, starred review In this new collection Adrienne Rich confronts dislocations and upheavals in the United States at the beginning of the twenty-first century. The title poem, in a young schoolteacher's voice, evokes the lessons that children (Not of course here) learn amid violence and hatred, when the whole town flinches / blood on the undersole thickening to glass. *Usonian Journals 2000* intercuts faces and conversations, building to a dystopic/utopic vision. Throughout these fierce and musical poems, Rich traces the imprint of a public crisis on individual experience: personal lives bent by collective realities, language itself held to account.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *One Big Self* C. D. Wright, 2007 Emerging from society's most hidden and reviled structures is a poetry of majestic, riveting intensity.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law* Adrienne Rich, 1963

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *Sources*, 2000

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: *The Dream and the Dialogue* Alice Templeton, 1994 Adrienne Rich's poetry has long engaged critics in questions about the nature of poetic art, the character of poetic tradition, and the value of poetry as a political and cultural

activity. At the same time, it has attracted many general readers, largely because it expresses the personal, social, and intellectual crises faced by feminists during the last thirty years. In this study, Alice Templeton looks at the ways in which feminist thinking has influenced Rich's poetics while, simultaneously, her poetic practice has shaped her feminist conceptions. Templeton begins by exploring the tensions between epic, eulogistic, and lyric claims made in the poems collected in *Diving into the Wreck* (1973). She then examines the strategies Rich uses in subsequent collections to test and refine her feminist thinking. Templeton focuses, in particular, on the dialogic moments of cultural participation that Rich's poetry provides for the poet and the reader. These moments, Templeton argues, can dispel myths of social determinism even as they implicate readers in an ethically charged communal bond. By demonstrating the contributions that Rich has made both to feminist thinking and to our ways of reading poetic tradition, *The Dream and the Dialogue* treats Rich as a poet of ideas and places her work solidly in the context of contemporary literary theory.--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: Dream of a Common Language Heather McDonald, 1993 This intriguing work produced at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre in New York was inspired by an actual incident: women were banned from the artists' dinner to plan the first Impressionist painting exhibit in 1874, even though works by women were to be shown. In the play, the dinner is at the home of Victor, a successful artists, and Clovis, an artist who no longer paints. After helping with the preparations and being excluded from the dining room, Clovis devises a women only dinner to be held outdoors.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: Tonight No Poetry Will Serve: Poems 2007-2010 Adrienne Rich, 2011-01-17 "Rich's poetry itself is a mirror, reflecting the truths about humanity this discerning poet has come to understand."—Booklist "Rich is one of the greatest American poets of the past half century . . . attested to both by the extraordinary power of her poems and by the laurels she's racked up. . . . The events of our blood-dimmed decade have afforded Rich a subject for some of her strongest material."—Sara Marcus, San Francisco Chronicle

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: The Divine Comedy Dante Alighieri, 2013-02-26 A stunning 3-in-1 deluxe edition of one of the great works of Western literature An epic masterpiece and a foundational work of the Western canon, *The Divine Comedy* describes Dante's descent into Hell with Virgil as his guide; his ascent of Mount Purgatory and reunion with his dead love, Beatrice; and, finally, his arrival in Heaven. Examining questions of faith, desire, and enlightenment and furnished with semiautobiographical details, Dante's poem is a brilliantly nuanced and moving allegory of human redemption. This acclaimed blank verse translation is published here for the first time in a one-volume edition. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: The Aesthetics of Power Claire Keyes, 2008 When still a senior at Radcliffe, Adrienne Rich was selected as a Yale Younger Poet. The judge, W.H. Auden, wrote the introduction to her first book of poems. Thus Rich's career was launched by one of the most distinguished poets of the twentieth century, someone Rich herself admired and emulated. Adrienne Rich's early mentors were men, and her early poetry consequently adopted a strong male persona. In her development as artist, woman, and activist, however, Rich emerged as a leading voice of modern feminism--a voice which rejects a male-dominated world, forcing new definitions of power, new possibilities for women, and profound repercussions for society. In *The Aesthetics of Power*, Claire Keyes examines the shape and scope of Rich's poetry as it applies to Rich's female aesthetic. Keyes uncovers the process by which Rich embraces, then rejects, accepted uses of power, achieving a vision of beneficent female power. In her early poems, Adrienne Rich

accepts certain traditions associated with the divisions of power according to sex. Later, Rich continually defines and redefines power until she can reject power-as-force (patriarchal power) for the power-to-transform, which, for her, is the truly significant and essential power. Surveying Rich's poetry and prose from 1951 to the present, this book traces the development of Adrienne Rich's new understanding of the power of the poet and the power of woman. Sharing Rich's feminist sensibilities, yet at times critical of her more radical positions, Claire Keyes draws a portrait of an artist who was molded by the complex political and social climate of post-World War II America. It is a portrait that reveals the creative growth of an artist, and the personal growth of a powerful and controversial woman.

adrienne rich the dream of a common language: Why Poetry Matthew Zapruder, 2017-08-15 An impassioned call for a return to reading poetry and an incisive argument for poetry's accessibility to all readers, by critically acclaimed poet Matthew Zapruder In *Why Poetry*, award-winning poet Matthew Zapruder takes on what it is that poetry—and poetry alone—can do. Zapruder argues that the way we have been taught to read poetry is the very thing that prevents us from enjoying it. In lively, lilting prose, he shows us how that misunderstanding interferes with our direct experience of poetry and creates the sense of confusion or inadequacy that many of us feel when faced with it. Zapruder explores what poems are, and how we can read them, so that we can, as Whitman wrote, “possess the origin of all poems,” without the aid of any teacher or expert. Most important, he asks how reading poetry can help us to lead our lives with greater meaning and purpose. Anchored in poetic analysis and steered through Zapruder's personal experience of coming to the form, *Why Poetry* is engaging and conversational, even as it makes a passionate argument for the necessity of poetry in an age when information is constantly being mistaken for knowledge. While he provides a simple reading method for approaching poems and illuminates concepts like associative movement, metaphor, and negative capability, Zapruder explicitly confronts the obstacles that readers face when they encounter poetry to show us that poetry can be read, and enjoyed, by anyone.

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