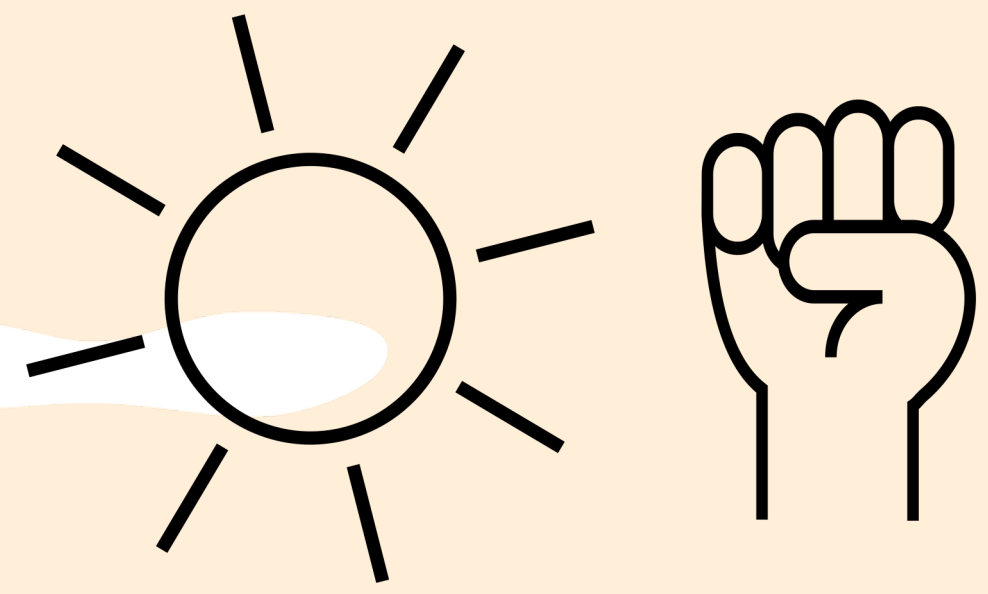
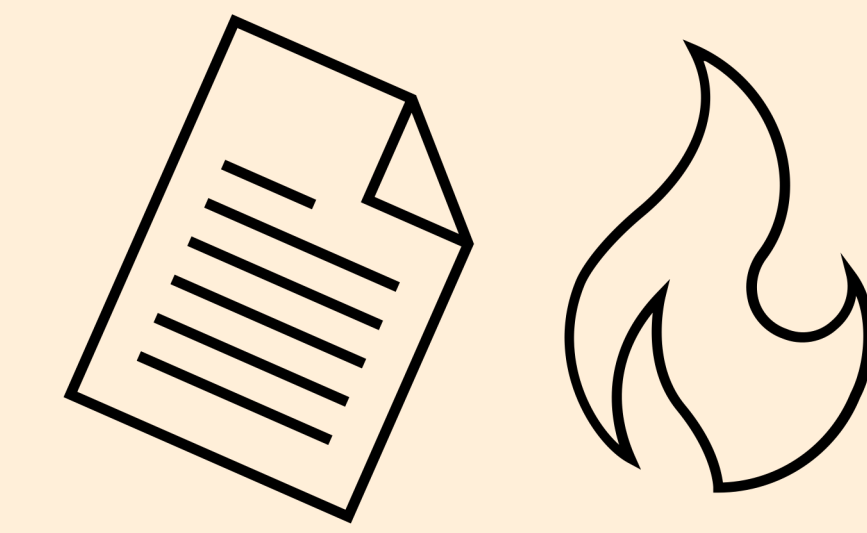


# THE TIME IS NOW: A MEMOIR FROM 2050



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## PURPOSE / TOPIC

- The “Climate Imaginaries” course allowed students to explore how our imaginations about the future could be potential pathways for political change today.
- The assignment required students to write a fictional memoir set in the world of 2050, from a time in which things have become much better or worse. I chose dystopia for my piece.

## PLOT SUMMARY

- 1 **Setting** : Set in 2050 in a Toronto Correctional Facility. Outside temp approx. 40° C.



- 2 **Character** : Tommy, an Indigenous man in his mid 30's. Married to his pregnant wife, Cecile who is also of Indigenous background.

### 3 **Conflict**

- While in prison, Tommy recollects his traumatic experience during a climate protest, where he became a victim of police brutality .
- The selfishness of those in power has caused the destruction of land, and the death of the people. The goal of net-zero was never reached.



- Detained for unlawful assembly, Tommy writes letters to his pregnant wife, Cecile, from his cell.
- Tommy describes the dire conditions in prison, and the poor treatment of inmates.
- He recalls a time where society mocked Indigenous knowledge and ignored the climate crisis.
- Before he dies, he urges Cecile and his daughter to continue the legacy he left behind.

## SAMPLE PASSAGES AND RELEVANT THEMES

1. *“To many, the world may be ending, but we’ve already experienced the apocalypse. To have our resources stolen and our entire culture stripped away from us...that is the end of the world.”*

This not only displays the inequitable distribution of climate change in society, but highlights the existing injustices that exacerbate Indigenous vulnerability to the crisis.

2. *“They lock us in here yet are locked-in themselves. Chained to the status-quo, too comfortable to break away. When will they escape from the shackles?”*

We have become so comfortable with our unsustainable lifestyles, that we are unwilling to embark on solutions that reverse climate impacts. We feel secure in the status quo, even it means tolerating environmental risks.

3. *“A couple weeks ago, the air conditioning stopped working. Since we spend about 23 hours a day in our cells, they’re practically cooking us to death..”*

Feeling sympathy for criminals may not be usual, however, the disturbing atmosphere of the correctional facility may invoke such emotions, along with a sense of fear,. if we do not take action on climate change, our institutions may end up replicating this scene.

## A SIGN OF HOPE

- This memoir serves as a reminder to stand up for what one believes in, even when their voices are ignored or silenced.
- It is important to engage with and learn from traditional knowledge.
- We should address the unfair exposure of marginalized communities to climate harms, and identify systemic causes of such vulnerabilities.
- We must remain hopeful in a world full of uncertainties– it isn’t over yet.



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