

Climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, (address) the U.N.'s Climate Action Summit in New York City on Monday, September 23 2019. Here's the full transcript of Thunberg's speech, beginning with her response to a question about the message she has for world leaders.

My message is that we (watch) you.

This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all (come) to us young people for hope. How dare you!

You (steal) my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People (suffer). People (die). Entire ecosystems (collapse). We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

For more than 30 years, the science (be) crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you (do) enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.

You say you (hear) us and that you (understand) the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really (understand) the situation and still (keep) on failing to act, then you (be) evil. And that I refuse to believe.

The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees [Celsius], and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control.

Fifty percent may be acceptable to you. But those numbers do not include tipping points, most feedback loops, additional warming hidden by toxic air pollution or the aspects of equity and climate justice. They also (rely) on my generation sucking hundreds of billions of tons of your CO₂ out of the air with technologies that barely exist.

So a 50% risk is simply not acceptable to us — we who have to live with the consequences.

To have a 67% chance of staying below a 1.5 degrees global temperature rise — the best odds given by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] — the world had 420 gigatons of CO₂ left to emit back on Jan. 1st, 2018. Today that figure is already down to less than 350 gigatons.

How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just 'business as usual' and some technical solutions? With today's emissions levels, that remaining CO₂ budget will be entirely gone within less than 8 1/2 years.

There (be) not be any solutions or plans presented in line with these figures here today, because these numbers are too uncomfortable. And you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is.

You (fail) us. But the young people (start) to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations (be) upon you. And if you (choose) to fail us, I say: We (never forgive) you.

We (not let) you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we (draw) the line. The world (wake) up. And change (come), whether you like it or not.

Thank you.