



SHARE YOUR STORY

# COVID-19

coronavirus

Essays and artwork  
by kids like you!

## Evanna Age: 6

- Today I am going to talk to you about covid-19
- Covid-19 is a virus or a flu like symptom
- Virus is tiny thing, we can't see it in our eyes
- The virus gets to our body when sick person cough or sneeze without covering their face,
- then the virus stays in the air or on the surface
- If you go outside and you touch something and touch your face the virus gets into the body

### How to prevent covid-19

- Use soap and water. And Wash for 20 seconds.
- You can count slowly to 20.
- You can sing the happy birthday song twice.
- Cover your face when you sneeze or cough
- Stay home
- If you go outside cover your face

### What am I doing?

I AM STAYING HOME  
DOING MY HOMEWORK  
PLAYING IN THE BACKYARD  
PLAYING WITH MY SISTER AND BROTHER

### What did I do?

When school closed me and my family went out and supported nurses, doctors and everyone who's working. Me and my brother made a poster I will show you what I did.



### My Life with Covid-19

The Covid-19 is super serious. It could hurt people and has killed many people already. I am afraid of the virus and how anybody can get it and die. Since the virus, school has closed and I'm not going to my classes. I'm learning Math and Chinese on the computer. If I go somewhere, I need to wash my hands for 20 seconds with soap and water. I need to stay 6 feet away from people besides my family. People can catch it by somebody sneezing at them. I think the fear of the Coronavirus is causing too many rules, now.

Even though my life has changed, I cannot complain. I don't have to wake up early for school. I get to roll out of bed and go on the computer for class in my pajamas. I like the extra sleep and my mom doesn't have to rush me out the house in the morning for school. I also get to see my mom and dad more than usual, which I really like. It makes me happy to have my family around because I get to play with them. Another thing I like since the coronavirus came into my life, is that I don't have to sit in the car a lot. I don't really care for the car rides.

One day, the Coronavirus will be gone and I will be happy to go outside and play with friends. But until then, I will enjoy staying home and playing with my family, too.



**Introduction:**

Covid 19 is caused by a new coronavirus. It has spread all around the world as it is a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals like bats and cattle.

**Risk of Coronavirus:**

- 1) People of all ages can be infected by the coronavirus
- 2) The medicine / Vaccine is still in testing phase hence there is no medicine for the coronavirus hence it is killing a lot of people
- 3) Coronavirus is Asymptomatic hence it spreads easily from one to another

These risk factors make me very worried as we stay at home all day and are not able to go to school, meet my friends , Play outside and enjoy mother nature.

**Symptoms:**

The most common symptoms are cough, fever,shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and even death. I ensure that I am safe and do not eat unnecessary things to protect myself from getting fever or cough.

**My feelings:**

I feel bored and want to go back to school. I also want to go back to soccer and running practice. I spend my time at home doing homework and playing games like brawl stars. I spend more time with my family by playing tennis and soccer with my dad. We also go biking and watch movies. I play brawl stars with my friends but I am unable to meet all of them which makes me a little worried. Hoping this will be ended soon.

**Prevention:**

- 1) Stay home as much as you can
- 2) Keep a safe distance
- 3) Wash hands often
- 4) Cover your cough
- 5) Keep your surroundings clean
- 6) Maintain social distancing
- 7) Wear mask

These are the effective methods taken by me to protect myself and others from the coronavirus.

**Conclusion**

It is very important that each and every individual follow the rules and regulations of the government to protect themselves and others from getting infected from the coronavirus. I am praying daily to give an end to the coronavirus so that I can lead a normal and happy life.

I love Disney Movies.  
I like the movie Inside Out  
My feelings about  
coronavirus match the  
feelings in the movie.



# How Covid-19 Affected Me

The novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has made a large impact on our normal lives. We've had to make changes and say goodbye to some people. Many have lost jobs and the world has grown to know a small amount of fear if not a large one. I learned how to keep safe, to myself, and I've had many shocking moments during this period of time.

When I first heard of COVID-19, I was not very alarmed. After all, at the time the virus was still only in China. As I heard on the news that the numbers kept growing and growing, I finally had some odd feeling, especially when the virus reached Seattle, Washington. An even greater one emerged when the first numbers added up in New York. Still, there were only 12 confirmed in the United States, so surely I couldn't get it, right? My family made sure to always wash our hands, keep healthy, and take lots of Vitamin C. It seemed to work, and I felt pretty healthy, until that one day.

The day I'm talking about is the day when I started coughing. As I kept coughing and coughing all day long, I got more nervous. That night too,

I was coughing and that's when my temperature reached 102°. Now I was really nervous. A few days later, my cough and fever went down, and me and my mom visited the doctor. When I took the test for COVID-19, the doctor said it was probably nothing and to stay calm. This really reassured me. Anyway, I had to prepare for online classes with distance learning!

Online classes didn't seem bad, and it turned out it wasn't at all. It was way easier, especially because I didn't have to go through the daily hour-long commute. I was able to FaceTime friends and do classwork with them. Every now and then, my teacher would prepare a Zoom call just so he could check in on us. Life seemed good, and I was as happy as can be.

Then, the doctor called. At the moment of the call I was doing my work, but I paused to listen. I wasn't nervous at the beginning of the call when my dad picked up the phone, but I still listened, anticipating the results of the test. I heard the doctor sigh and I heard: "He's positive." I didn't know how to react. I continued to listen but all that the doctor was saying was to quarantine for

two weeks and was giving tips on how to stay healthy for my mom, dad, and myself. I felt small tears growing in my eyes, but I wiped them and continued to do schoolwork.

I told nobody but one friend that I really trust and my dad told the principal of my school and many of my family members. My mom told me that I shouldn't worry, because kids have stronger immune systems than adults. I continued with life, and I found that I've gotten way better. So far I haven't been getting any fever

since the 102° and I only cough once about every three days, but I am still in quarantine. I can go out in my backyard, and I can play basketball, so I can stay in shape. I continue to work and have fun and now I'm here writing this. I was nervous to share this story, and I wasn't sure that I wanted to share, but I found this activity very enjoyable. Always try to stay safe, keep good hygiene, and stay well. Have hope for the sick ones, and remember to keep going with life. An adventure still awaits.

Author: Joaquim  
Grade: 6  
Age: 12

# The Deadly Outbreak of COVID-19

Hi, my name is Mahia I am 13 years old and in the seventh grade. Ever since the coronavirus entered the world it changed many people's lives including mine. This deadly virus caused stores to close, so people who did not have a surplus of food had no choice but to stay hungry. It left people unemployed as companies and industries were also shutting down.

I live in a house with nine people. This includes me, my parents, my three brothers, and three seniors (one grandma, two grandpas). The coronavirus caused my life to change because I had to maintain social distancing with my own mom. She works in Jacobi Hospital which is located in the Bronx, in the emergency room. She's in contact with at least 30-50 coronavirus patients daily. She doesn't want to take a day off because she tells me that it's her job to save people. On her off days she's basically in self quarantine in the basement. My dad made a rule that clearly states that when the seniors are in the living room watching CNN or eating their breakfast or lunch she has to stay in the basement, and if she's in the living room eating before they have to stay

upstairs. The reason why this rule was made was because my dad said that the coronavirus affects those who have weak immune systems like the elderly.

One of my close aunts came in contact with this deadly coronavirus. One day my parents decided to call her house and check on her and her kids like if they needed any type of food or medicine. When she picked up, she sounded so tired, and she could barely speak. She was out of breath. My dad asked how she felt and she said that she had a flu a week ago. After the call, it was my mom's decision to call the ambulance and so we did. When the ambulance reached the house, the people said that she had less oxygen. She was then rushed into the hospital, and stayed there for 2 days until her reports came and showed that she had come in contact with the coronavirus. We were crying, my mom was crying because she treats her as if she is her own sister. My entire house was praying for her day and night. About 4 days later the good news came, the coronavirus left from her lungs! She was returned back home and was spending time with her 2 sons.

Every week my dad checks in on almost everybody in his contact list. He gives food to his brothers every two weeks. For instance when my aunt was diagnosed, there was no one in the house to cook food, except for the older brother, but he knows how to cook very little. During her absence my parents made sure that they had food, for instance we would give them food like pasta, chicken, etc., and snacks like pasta, candy, chips, cookies, and soda. When my parents dropped off the food, he would call one of the brothers to come to the front of his house, and get the food from the trunk of the car. A few days ago, I found out that my neighbor had coronavirus but it left. She also works at Montefiore in the Bronx. When she found out about herself, she self-

quarantined in her own house. After quarantine, my parents asked if they needed anything such as food or medical supplies like masks or gloves. We had a few N95 masks so we gave them to her, after all she was helping people save their lives.

Twenty years from now, which means  $13 + 20$ , I would be 33 years old. Therefore I would be telling my children about the deadly coronavirus. *"People were fearing the sudden and vicious outbreak of the coronavirus. It disrupted life in the United States as schools, sports and entertainment events, and even Disneyland, shut down for the upcoming weeks. The city was in complete lockdown and we were in the middle of war. Everyone was indoors fearing enemy invasion."*

**Author: Mahia**  
**Grade: 7**  
**Age: 13**

## Brewster: A COVID-19 Story

Lots of things have happened in the past few years, but right now something really weird is happening. It's called Coronavirus. My pack stays home all day. Sissy and her brother, Kaleb, don't go to the big brick building called School. Instead, they stare at foldable black boxes all day. Now, they look like Mom, who works in a room called Office, where my comfy blue bed is where I like to sleep when my kids used to be at School. Dad has been making loud noises in the place called Garage, which makes it hard for me to sleep now. They also do a thing called social distancing. So, if someone comes by our house I bark because that's not social distancing. Sometimes I get a "good boy" for helping out and sometimes a "bad boy," but either way I know that they are thanking me. Also, Dad opened the jumbo tub and you will never guess the name. It's Pool!! But the weirdest thing is, instead of going away to meet people, they talk to a huge flickering screen called T.V. and play a game called Zoom. Personally I'd rather play *It's my toy and you can't have it*, but my pack really likes this game so I like it, too. Now that Sissy is home all the

time we always have time for play. This Covid thing really turned my world upside down, but I like it.

Did you think that was the end? Well it isn't. You want to know what else is weird? Mom loves to play a game called Amazon where you look at a thing called an I-pad and say "I want that." After that you wait for at least a few days and the bad man who doesn't know how to play social distancing brings a brown square to the front door!!! I like it because I get things, too, and I can do a good job and bark to remind bad man to stay away from my pack. Instead of buying toys (for me of course) they buy food and other weird things. But, now after the things come, Mom and Dad put on blue hands and we wipe them down with stinky wipes.

Do you want to know what the weirdest thing is? That coronavirus or covid-19 is called pandemic. Funny word, right, but it means disease prevalent over a whole country or the world. And I will tell you one thing: pandemic means no more visits from friends. One of my friends (because everyone is my friend) is Simona (pronounced zy-moan-a).

She never comes anymore. She's one of those people like Sissy who does not care if you get fur all over the couch. I miss Simona, because she used to let me sit on her lap even if she was eating. As much as I miss Simona, I miss not being able to go to what I call pet heaven (or PetSmart). It's a place where every toy in the world is, plus you can see every other animal like birds, hamsters, lizards, etc. But

my favorite is CATS, and I will tell you, there are so many cats there. I love to bark at them. Most dogs agree that you should bark at them. Just for future reference you are allowed to do that, too. Well for now I'm in Sissy's lap enjoying the dreams of playing *it's my ball, you can't have it*.

**Author: Kayleah**  
**Grade: 4**  
**Age: 9**

\*Footnote: This is an excerpt of a longer work by the author.



Brewster

## Quarantine: Day 22

Since the beginning of this year, the Coronavirus has been something that everyone has talked about. When we came back to school in January, we were all joking about it. When anyone got sick everyone would say that they had the Coronavirus. It slowly started becoming more and more of a serious issue around the world, but no one thought that it was going to be something that affected us. On Thursday, March 12, 2020, my family drove to Dodge City for my sister's game in the KSHSAA 1A State Basketball Tournament. That day, the NCAA tournament and other college tournaments got canceled. We were all worried our tournament would also be canceled but were hopeful since it was a statewide tournament, not a nationwide tournament. We went to the game and won. After the game, a lot of us went to the hotel and hung out and celebrated the win. A few hours later, Olivia texted our family group chat saying the tournament had been canceled. I immediately went to my family. Everyone was in shock. We were all so confused and upset. The people at the tournament were mostly from Kansas! And

everyone that was going to be at the tournament had already been there with the boys' first-round games the day before. I felt so bad for the team and especially the seniors. It felt like the win that they just fought for meant nothing. They didn't get to finish their season.

We went to the team's hotel to see them and how they were doing. It was very sad. Everyone was crying. We stayed for a while to talk to everyone, then we went back to our hotel and hung out again. Everyone ranted a lot about what had just happened. "This feels so unreal," was a phrase repeated a lot. It felt like a dream or a movie. We headed home the next day and spent time with our family when we got back. Everything still felt so unreal.

The next week was spring break. Over the weekend and the first day of break, I was just waiting to see if the track season was going to be canceled or not. I was fine if it got canceled because I don't like track very much, but I didn't want it to because my sister Olivia was a senior and she did enjoy it.

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, day six

of quarantine, I found out that school in the buildings would be canceled for the rest of the year. When Mom got home from work she told me that she had bad news and I just assumed that track was canceled, but she said that the school year would not continue in the buildings. I was in shock. I could barely make it through Christmas break. How was I supposed to make it five months? Right before Mom told me that, my friend Tatum and I were FaceTiming about what was going to happen. Neither of us expected this to happen. Right after I found out, I called her back, crying, and she just said: "I know." Everything still felt so unreal. I just thought about all of the memories that we made throughout the year that we won't get to keep making, and the friends I just started getting close to that I won't get to see every day as I have been. All I wanted to do was go to school. It was so upsetting. Olivia didn't talk to anyone for a couple of days. It was so devastating. Even though we all complain about school all the time, we didn't want it to be taken away from us.

After a few days, the thought of not physically going back to school started settling in. It still hurt, but it was better. It's funny how whenever you can't do something, you want to do it so much more. Everyone looked forward to days off of school, but they didn't want it to be finished before it was supposed to be.

The fun part about school was seeing my friends every day and always making memories and doing dumb things. Going into my teacher Mrs. Whetzal's room with two of my classmates Maveryk and Derek whenever we had free time was one of the highlights of the year. Writing stories in her class, where I may or may not have caused everyone to be mad and kill each other in every story. Bragging about my dinosaurs and always thinking of new stories to write was so fun. I am so sad all of that in school is over. I really hope the next fall school year doesn't get canceled, because I can't wait to get back to school.

Author: Tori  
Grade: 8  
Age: 14

# How the Coronavirus Affects Our Daily Lives

The coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19, affects a lot of people, including me and my family. We have to stay home from school, or else the virus could potentially spread even greater. We have to do our part in social isolation. Even though we may not be nurses or doctors, we can still do something to help.

Sometimes I feel bored when I'm just at home all the time. At first when school was out, I was happy and thought it was the best news ever because I thought that we would get to play and have lots of free time. But now, I regret thinking that because I miss interacting with others. Instead, sometimes I find myself at home with nothing to do and lonely. I don't really care where I go, but I just really want to get out of the house. I think that it is right that we shouldn't have any huge gatherings, because it would just be an easier way for it to affect more people. What makes me sad is that since my family stays home more, my brother and sister have been also fighting and getting into arguments more. It makes it harder for my parents to take care of us. Now, in our neighborhood, we can't go to simple places that we would usually go to such as the park. I can still go

outside of my house to walk around, bike, or walk my dog, but I still have to avoid being in contact with others, even my friends. I'm sad that I can't hang out with my friends anymore. If we had a party where everyone was staying six feet away from each other, that wouldn't be fun at all. I feel bad for my friends and family who are having their birthdays at this time. Their parties consist of people meeting virtually online greeting them and wishing them a happy birthday. And in these hard times, it makes me realize how we take simple things like giving people hugs for granted.

Some hospitals like the one where my mom works at are running out of masks. Now, the nurses there have to use one mask a day to save enough masks to use. When my mom and dad come back from work, they always disinfect their phones and wash their hands to make sure that the germs don't spread. What really scares me is that there is no vaccine for the coronavirus. I'm worried about my mom and dad, who both work in hospitals. What frightens me is that without the protective equipment for the health care workers, they are at high risk of getting sick with the coronavirus, and thus I don't even want them to go to work because of this.

Now, instead of going to school, we have to use the internet to connect with our teachers and classmates. It helps us meet people virtually so that we can still talk and do work at home. Now, I do Chinese, piano, and math classes online. I also go to church virtually. If there was no internet, who knows what we would do?! When we have free time, my siblings and I draw pictures to make people happy and tape them to our windows. Some pictures have a drawing of a rainbow, smiley faces, and encouraging words written out. Then, when people pass by, they might be more cheerful. My grandpa goes to neighbors' houses to give them food and water. I think that is very kind of him to do that in this time of need. We can't go inside of restaurants and can only go through the drive-thrus. I think that in some ways, the coronavirus may be actually *helping* people. Before, washing your hands was at the back of people's heads. It was just a thought. Not that they would actually do it. And they didn't even care, because with their pure luck, they wouldn't get sick. Now, some people are actually being serious about it and washing their hands more frequently. This makes me feel like even when there isn't a coronavirus, you should still wash your hands to

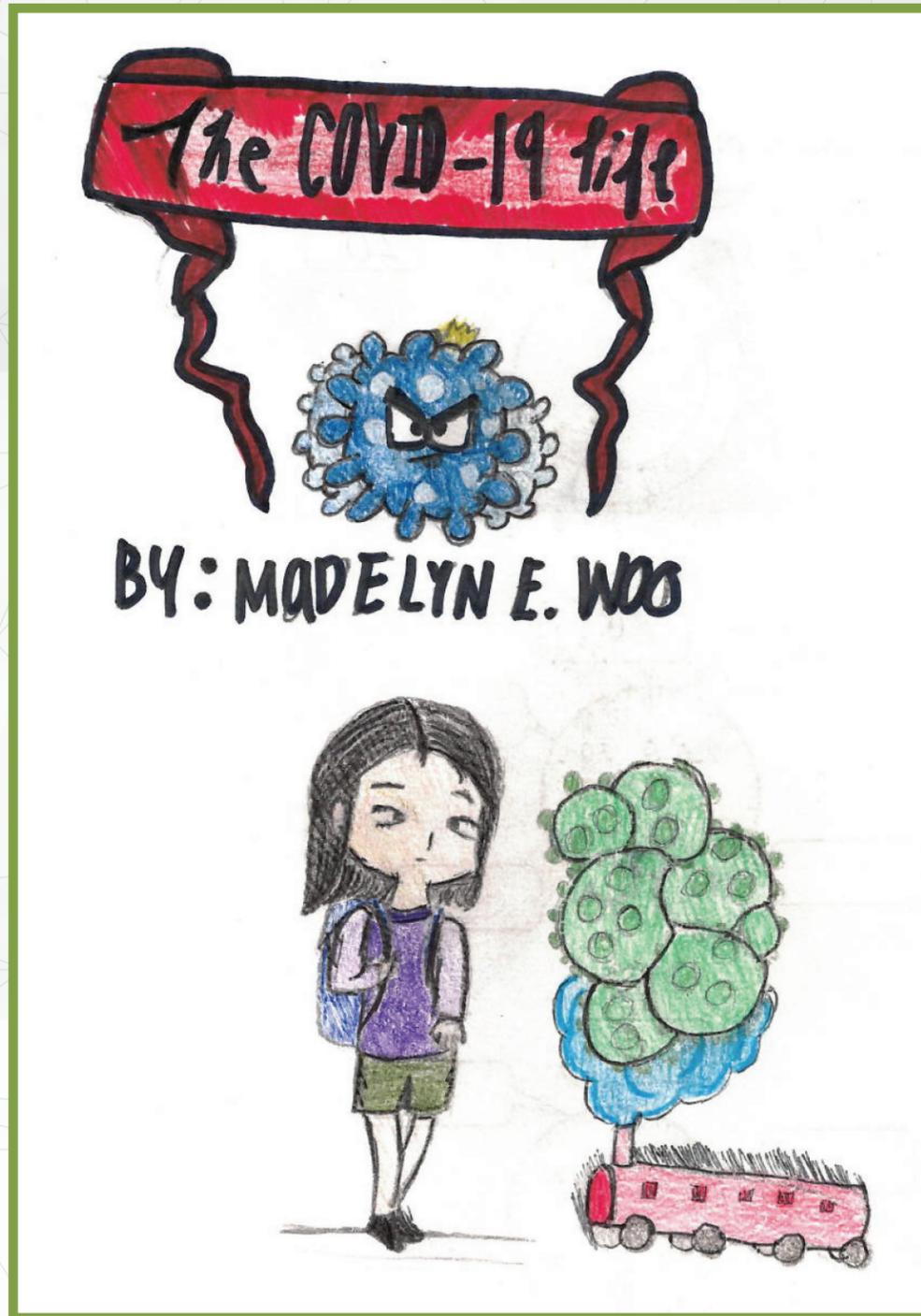
prevent any other types of sicknesses.

I feel like the only *actually* safe place is my home. But when I think about it, what if one of my family members catches the coronavirus? I think that the best thing to do is play it safe and wash your hands with soap and water. So even though you're stuck in your house, or really bored, try to find a way to help! Maybe you can find a way to make masks for the doctors and nurses, or if you'd like you can draw pictures to make people happy! Twenty years from now, I will still remember this experience. But I will still feel happy that at least I had tried to do something about it. Please stay safe!

**Author:** Katelyn

**Grade:** 6

**Age:** 12



Artist: Madelyn  
Grade: 4  
Age: 10

The paranoia from the gloomy world was overwhelming. Children. Forced out of their schools, isolated from the people they cared about. Left questioning everything around them, wondering what was to come. Adults. Being notified by the news, terrified of every passing second. Confiscated from their workplaces, and many left unemployed. Fear was present within everybody yet nobody knew what they were afraid of.

There were many things left unknown during this time. Such as why did this happen? Are we going to be okay? When will this be over? Some people may even be asking... Why me?

Numbers were climbing to new heights. Alarming heights. Growing faster and faster as the days dragged on. All we knew were numbers, and not even that was definite.

When the moon rises, standing high overhead it brings a canopy of stars to enlighten the inky details of the world below. Though there is not a soul to step outside. Nobody to bask in the starlight. No late-night partying with friends, or relaxing moments under the starlight. Just the same scene day after day, stranded within

these prisons we call home.

I would often journey to the great outdoors, hanging out with my neighbors, and enjoying the time we would spend together. Running through the woods, a blanket of leaves casting a refreshing shadow onto us, protecting us from the heat of the blazing sun. Now when I go outside, all I feel around me is a growing darkness. Consuming me in the wrath of eternal worry.

The hospitals around the country, even throughout the world, are being filled with the ill. Unfortunate people, kind and beautiful people that are struck down by this horrific sickness. Families grieving, friends mourning, and everyone watching as the death count only continues to rise.

The economy is failing. People left without a job are suffering, many even nearing poverty.

Grocery stores are near empty. Photos upon photos of empty aisles, and some stores have even been emptied completely. Even going to buy groceries in order to feed families can put one at risk of infecting themselves and the people they love.



COVID-19 first affected my family and life when it started just like many others. Like many others, my mom got laid off. We were concerned because my mom was making almost half of what she used to and my family was concerned that we would not have enough money to pay the bills and put food on the table. We tried to stop using so much electricity so we could make the bills a little less. It was all OK because my mom figured it out like she always does. It got worse when a friend of the family got COVID-19 and it got worse and worse and she was put on a vent and because she was older. It was not looking good for her. My dad had said the only reason he told me was because he was not sure if she would make it and I was really sad. My dad later told me that the reason he didn't tell me sooner was because he did not want me to worry. My dad told me not soon after that she was getting better and was off the vent. My life got even more complicated when someone I didn't even know got the Coronavirus and

recovered. She got sent home and an at-home nurse had to go continue her treatment and that nurse was my dad. My dad could have gotten exposed to it and if his three kids went to his house for the weekend like we normally would, his kids would be put at risk too. My mom asked her doctor what he thought we should do and the doctor told us we could not go to his house for two weeks. I could not see my dad for two weeks and I was sad that because of COVID-19 I would not see my dad. The only times I have not seen my dad every weekend was for a year a long time ago and he still came and visited for a few days a week. This quarantine was bad, but I could handle it until COVID stopped me from seeing my dad. I never could have imagined that COVID would take my dad from me even if it was only for fourteen days. I never would have thought that COVID would take more from me, after taking my mom's job and almost taking a friend.

**Author: Gabriella**  
**Grade: 7**  
**Age: 13**

Q uiet  
U nique  
A ngrry 😡!  
R eally weird  
A bsolutely crazy  
N ot fun  
T errible  
I ck!  
N ever again  
E verlasting



**Artist: Julia**  
**Grade: 3**  
**Age: 8**

“Do you ever get the feeling you’re missing just one thing?” I asked, turning yet another facemask inside out—or right side out, I should say. Sam gave a resigned sigh and rolled her eyes, obviously dumbfounded by my query.

“Are you emo or something?” she snarked, tossing me another pile of her profitable creations.

I engaged the new pile of fabric, flipping it reflexively. “No, I mean—do you ever think there’s one thing you’re doing wrong, and that if you fixed that one thing you’d be a lot better off?”

“You know I’m not a philosopher,” she growled. “And I’m doing just fine. Anyways, I thought you were the positive one.”

“Hey, I have problems too.” I met her eyes, refusing to relinquish my gaze. “And I was just curious.”

“Maybe the one thing you’ve got wrong is how much you worry about stupid stuff like this,” she observed, callously running another mask under the needle. “If my catchphrase is ‘Shut up!’ yours is definitely ‘Did that just damage me?’”

Oh, boy. Back to the catchphrase quip from earlier. “Point taken,” I conceded, lounging back in the chair. The masks

were already flipped; they were ready to be retrofitted with hair ties serving as straps. “Am I getting a cut from this?”

“Maybe ten percent,” she remarked, snatching the pile of masks I gave her. She was robotic, practical, efficient, and endlessly self-assured; the exact opposite of me. Two hair ties were sewn onto the mask in twenty seconds.

“Ten?!” I scoffed, fears alleviated by a brief flutter of indignity. “I delivered some, and I flipped half of them out! I could take at least twenty.”

“Fifteen,” she retorted, eyes trained on the needle, which convulsed in a controlled spasm of ascension and descension; up, down, repeat. Robotic, much like Sam herself. It was as if the bobbin were an extension of her body, like an extra limb attained due to some radioactive meltdown. However, in this case, the meltdown facilitating her attachment to the machine was the virus, combined with her inherent shrewdness in terms of money-making.

“Fine.” I agreed, momentarily cowed by her harsh tone and unrelenting resolve. “I’ll take fifteen.”

**Author: Kevin**  
**Grade: 8**  
**Age: 14**

Since there is an endless amount of time for me to ponder about random things, I have realized that we are living in history. People will learn about this in history books. In the future, I would like to remember the good and the bad of this virus. The feeling of not having a choice on whether you could do online or offline classes. Or the feeling of seeing the world shut down. The ignorance of people who put themselves and others in danger of exposure to this respiratory virus. In addition, to remember the people working very hard in hospitals to keep them running and saving patients. The best memory to leave with after this whole ordeal would be how my family got closer during these times. Physically and mentally. Homecooked meals now because they are no longer as busy with work.

In the future, if I am ever asked about what it was like living during almost a world shut down due to a coronavirus (COVID-19), I would take a deep breath and sigh. Seeing all the news headlines of more and more new cases along with the deaths of many people was a very weird time. How after more and more weeks passed, it

no longer became much of a surprise how quickly the death tolls are rising. As dark as it is, the new normal isn’t supposed to be normal. While there were dark times, there were also lighter times. I’d tell people how everyone was supporting the doctors and nurses and others in the medical field who were helping us during this time. The videos of people singing on their balcony of different songs altogether. COVID-19 had brought us all together because it required everyone to work together in stopping this deadly virus.

A few changes were made within my family. I have a younger sister and older brother with two loving parents. Like many others, my parents are working from home now. Which at first was a bit challenging because it was a change of scenery with all 3 kids home with them. Both of them happen to be working within the school system, so during the first few weeks, they were really busy.

My parents haven’t allowed my siblings and me to go into stores to reduce exposure, nor go out often. And when we are out, we have to stay in the car. I’m waiting for the tipping

\*Footnote: This is an excerpt of a longer work by the author.

# A World Apart

point of being cramped together for who knows how long. With nowhere to go.

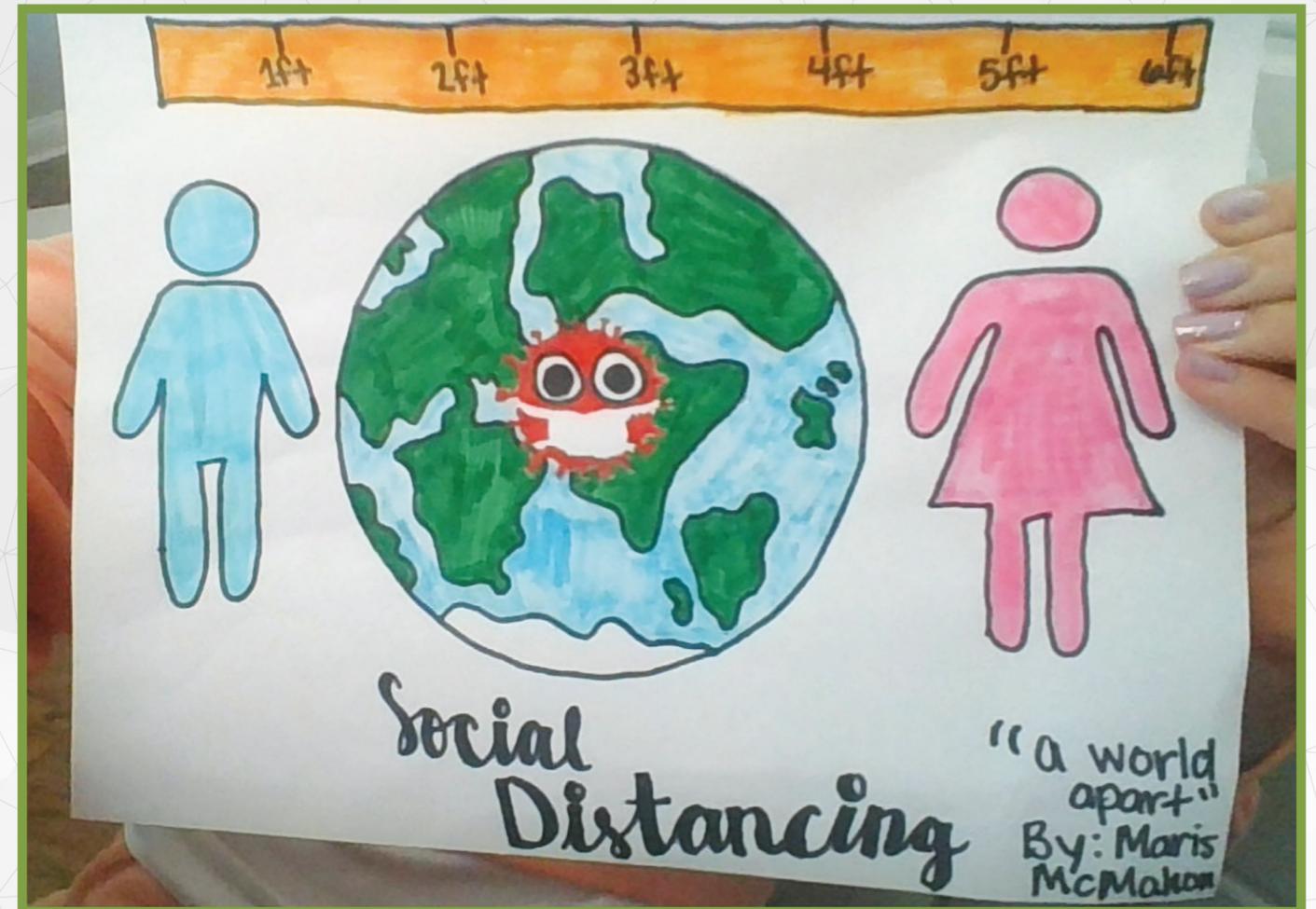
We haven't been able to see our grandparents for a while because of my grandpa having chemo for something not cancer-related. For the first time recently, my grandparents tried the whole Google Meet call because they don't have updated apple products to do group FaceTime. They are always happy seeing their grandchildren's faces.

Believe it or not, we wished to go back to school. In a classroom environment, with a schedule, and an unlimited amount of people to interact with. We missed the option of whether to do school online or in person. Especially, my brother who was a college freshman. He was supposed to

be enjoying his time away from family in college surrounded by friends.

It has been around five weeks since I have seen my friends in person. The majority of my friends I have now, I have known since elementary school. So, this year was supposed to be the last year we would all be in the same school. We were hoping to be able to go to many school events and hang out often before we all split up to different high schools. Since coronavirus canceled in-person schooling, I've been having a hard time trying to keep up with all of my friends. I'm afraid of losing contact with them earlier than expected (the expected time would be in high school). However, we all understand that this is all in the name of public health and keeping people safe.

**Author: Charlotte**  
**Grade: 8**  
**Age: 13**



**Artist: Maris**  
**Grade: 5**  
**Age: 11**

Okay. So initially, this whole “get out of school free card” thing was great. Terrific in fact. I mean, it’s not like I *don’t* like school, but come on. It’s school. Even though this year was probably my favorite school year, I was ready for a break. So, on Friday, March 13, I got my wish. Time would tell if it was actually worth it.

Friday, March 13, rumors had been floating around that the school would be shut down because of the coronavirus, but one could only hope. My classmates just joked. Anytime anyone coughed, sneezed, yawned, hiccuped, or *breathed*, there was a new diagnosis of COVID-19.

Anyways, it all started at flex, my last class of the day. My flex teacher, Mrs. Muelhman, was talking to our library teacher, Mrs. Curlin, while my class was watching a NOVA video. Suddenly, there was a crackle as the loudspeaker came to life.

“Would all teachers please stay after school for a meeting? Thank you,” Mr. Horne, our principal, said. This may sound normal, but our principal rarely ever made announcements. It was usually done by Ms. Butler, who worked in the front

office. But, that’s not what excited me. I was hoping that the meeting would have something to do with getting off school because of COVID-19. I don’t think anyone else was actually paying that much attention to the announcement, though, because it didn’t have to do with them. But, when flex ended, I was *really* excited. But again, don’t get me wrong. I love school. My grades are really important to me. But I was tired. So, I eagerly packed up my backpack, and went home. I told my parents and my big brother, Jonas, who goes to high school, what happened at school. We talked and talked, and though my parents had to prepare me for the possibility that school wouldn’t be canceled, my excitement just grew and grew. By the time I was in bed, my head was buzzing with excitement.

A lot happened between then and now. School was canceled. NTI days were extended. The last day of school was moved up to May 8. But mostly, I did work, turned it in, and did it again the next day. If I put everything that happened down, then it would just seem like I copied and pasted everything with a different date. And

although I got pretty bored, my family *never, ever* got uninteresting. We played board games, we wrote letters, played video games, redesigned our living room and kitchen, and stayed up till 3 a.m. juggling balls. Literally. Apparently Big Lots has juggling balls on clearance. Who knew? But I’m not saying we never fought and that we were all in a perfect mood all the time. Isolation can get you in a bad mood. But we all helped each other to be better. Patience had become a necessity.

We also often called our grandparents. They live in the fairly big city of San Antonio, Texas, which is not an ideal place to live during a

worldwide pandemic. They stayed at home, so they were relatively safe from coronavirus, but my family and I were still worried about them. I wish we could get them, but that’s unreasonable because they’re safe, and we’d have to make a dangerous trip to the big city, where the sidewalk is paved with germs.

This whole situation is scary to a lot of people. I still don’t know what’ll happen. School is about to end for 5th grade, but summer is about to begin. There’s still a lot that can happen. A part of the story that hasn’t been told. But I have faith that my family and I will be okay, and my grandparents. We have each other.

**Author: Alyson**  
**Grade: 5**  
**Age: 11**

# Your Move



Artist: Caleb  
Grade: 8  
Age: 14