

THE  
**PANDEMIC**  
*Voices*



by **WORLDPLAY**



Now more than ever, we need creative expressions to help us cope and better understand our shared moments of crisis.

- Soumi Duttagupta , Founder of WORDPLAY

### **Content:**

1. Pandemic Haiku: An escape from self-isolation through poetry
2. In the times of Corona: A sneak -peek into the minds of the teens and tweens through essays

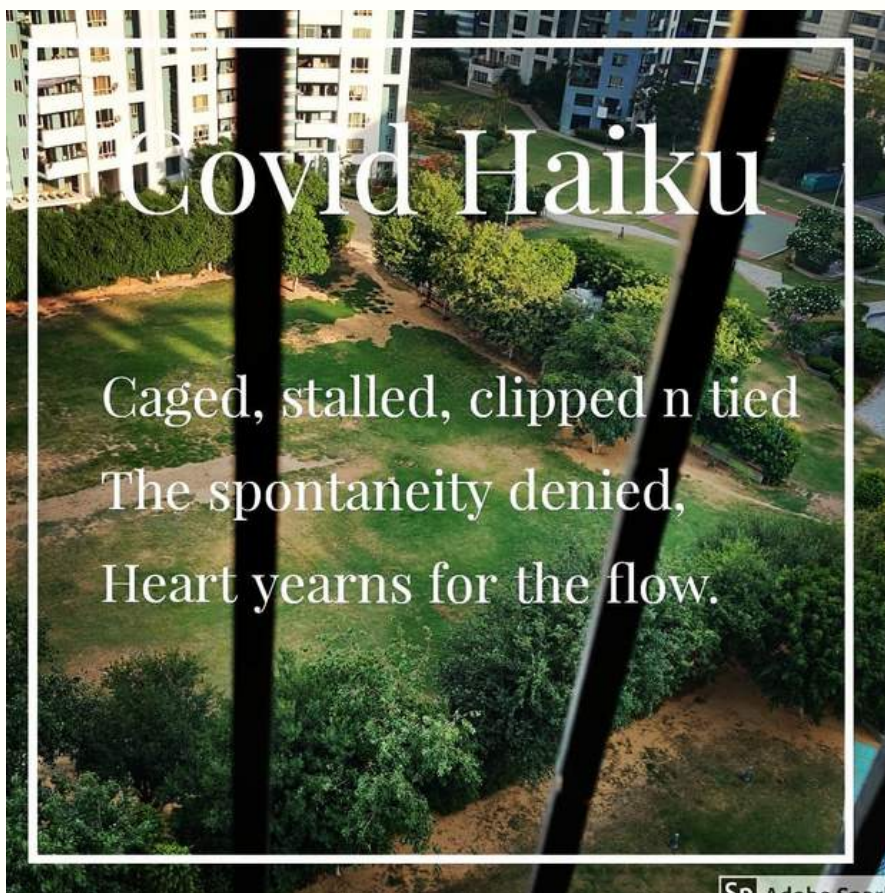


## Pandemic Haiku: An escape from self-isolation through poetry

HAIKU is the shortest form of poetry in the world. It is a Japanese form of poetry also adopted in other languages. A traditional haiku has a total of 17 syllables with three lines of 5-7-5 syllables. However, what makes a haiku stand apart, is not its syllable count but the poetic power of so few words. Haiku can abundantly give voice to our memories and meaning into the new world we are suddenly sharing.

## COVID HAIKU

WORDPLAY invited people to compose haikus that captured their experiences and feelings during this extraordinary time. She was over whelmed by the age range of the Haiku creators who accepted the challenge and poured in their thoughts.





**Sohini Tapadar**

6 Years, Kolkata, India

Covid Holiday,  
Days of schooling from my Home,  
I hope it stays long.



**Moonmoon Chowdhury**

39 Years, Amstelveen, Netherland

The purple blossoms,  
Dance unbound with the summer wind,  
I pine from my cage.



**Sudheshna Dixit**

45 Years, Dubai, UAE

Imprisoned, Confined,  
Saunter Under The Bright Sky,  
Universe Amends.



**Amrita Lahiri Bhattacharya**

35 Years, Hyderabad, India

The Birds In The Sky,  
Listlessly Fly In The Air,  
Display My Yearning.



**Sandhya Nagesh**

45 Years, Gurgaon, India

The Silence is strange,  
The blue sky is abuzz,  
Nature sings again.



**Debarati Banerjee**

45 Years, Gurgaon, India

Amidst thought and life,  
Worried and concerned for all  
Will it ever end?



**Oasis Bera**

44 Years, Delhi, India

And I watched transfixed.  
Wefts and warps of new frown lines.  
A tapestry weaves.



**Subho Lahiri**

53 Years, Hyderabad, India

Heads or tails choices:  
Stay away from people or,  
Work to bring home food



**Arpan Dasgupta**

11 Years, Kolkata, India

The danger diseases  
Corona is scaring all  
From living to dead

--

The hospital staff  
Shall be showered  
For saving many

--

The strong walls of love  
Tries to keep us safe and sound  
From the Corona

## In the times of Corona: A sneak –peek into the minds of the teens and tweens

In mid of a deluge of information on the global COVID pandemic and news about more and more people being confined to their homes, it is not surprising that children are also feeling vulnerable , anxious and stressed. WORDPLAY had tried to shine a light on how teens and the tweens may be feeling during these trying quarantined times. Here are their voices for the world to hear.

WORDPLAY was delighted when Bookosmia came forward to publish all these essays as a part of their :“Gratitude during Covid” series.



## Aarohi Arora

Grade 9, Suncity World School, Gurgaon

She is passionate about sports and has a flair for writing. She has great oratory skills and loves being on stage. It is a life changing Sanskrit phrase which has helped her survive during this pandemic.

### In the times of Corona: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Uncertainty is ruling our emotions, economy and health now!!

And in these uncertain times, I feel concerned for everyone. Not only the well-being of the entire world, but also the financial impact it is having on so many people around the world. I realize that and feel grateful for not having to worry about our basic needs. My heart goes out to the thousands of migrants walking long distances to their villages, so that they can be with their families.

'Pandemic' was only a word with a definition we had studied in social sciences. Never in my wildest dream, I thought we would all throb in its clutch. I am frightened when I look at the whooping numbers in the news. I am terrified about the future, looking at our gargantuan population. The infection is accelerating, death toll rising by each day, the pandemic is in full swing!



However, amid this chaos and terror, I do feel a sense of gratitude. When I look at the actions which are being taken by the government and our dedicated health professionals. I marvel at the courage of our healthcare professionals, delivery boys, grocery store owners, policemen and chemists, who in the midst of this worldwide health crisis are helping us to go on, putting their lives at risk. The doctors and nurses treating the Coronavirus patients are the global heroes, and they are invaluable and precious to our society .

During this time, I am feeling a plethora of emotions. The extrovert in me cannot stand this isolation anymore and wants go out door and meet my friends. I feel like a caged bird dying to come out. Even though I video call my friends, but I miss proximity and physical touch of my friends.

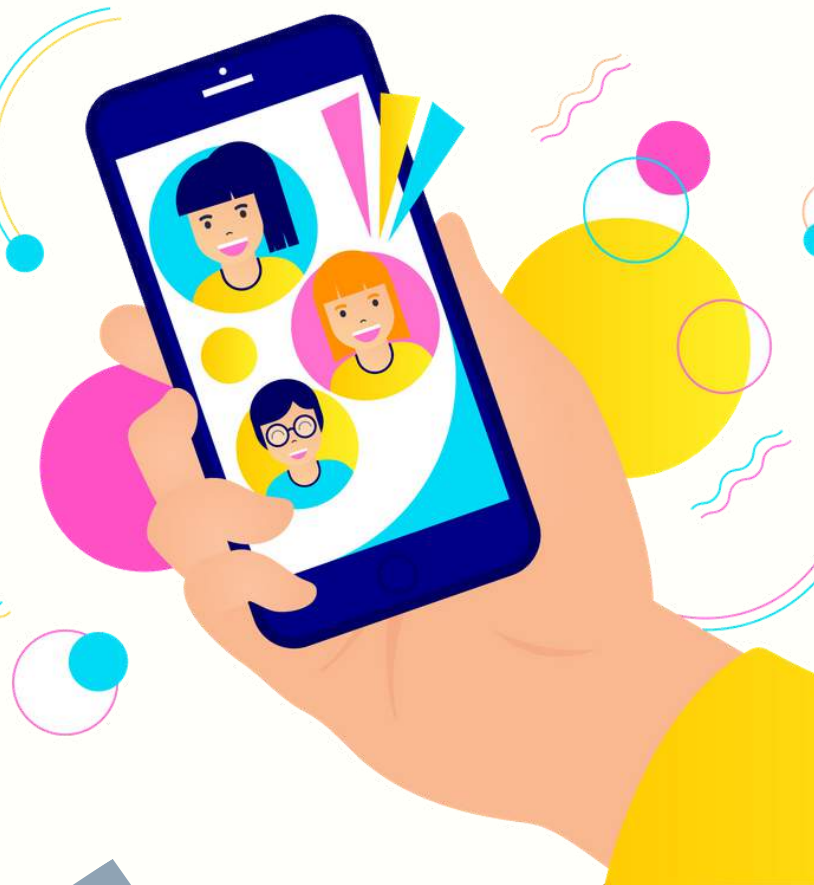




As they say, happiness and sadness can both co exist, I do have my share of joy in these sad times too. Helping my mom in the household chores gives me a sense of satisfaction. I feel as if I am contributing to the need of the hour, I my own way. I am also enjoying the freedom of choosing my daily routine . Before the pandemic, I used to have my plate full with classes and school . I am reading a lot now, painting, listening to various genres of music.

Another wonderful feeling which prevails in this time is the warm nearness of my family . The outbreak of this deadly disease has no doubt distanced me from my friends but has made my bond stronger with my family. This is a community outbreak which can be solved only with collective responsibilities. Apart from being clean and hygienic, we need to be specially concerned about our elderly population who are most vulnerable. We also need to extend our hands to the poor and needy , who are most helpless. And it is a mutual responsibility of the people and the government. We will not be able to control the corona virus spread unless every person becomes engaged and follows the precautions. In these trying times what I feel deeply is, there is no border or boundary. All of us across the globe need to fight this disease together, so that it can no more affect our health and economy of the world.

There is a Sanskrit phrase '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**' which means the world is one. This lethal virus with all it' s virility has given us an insightful realization that we all are connected.



## Sadhika Anand

Grade 9, The Sriram School, Gurgaon

Sadhika loves to travel and write blogs. Creativity is one of her pursuits and she loves to take part in theatre.



### In the times of Corona: Empathy is the new sunshine

As I took a sip of my Macchiato, the screen erupted with the voice of Palki Sharma, my favorite news anchor from WION. The headlines started pouring details about Coronavirus also known as “The Wuhan Virus.”. The first group of Wuhan patients were detected long back in December 2019 and came to light only when more than half the city was already a victim to it. The Chinese and international travelers acted as a catalyst and engulfed the entire world before the governments could take the needed measures to contain the infection. And now with over a million people showing symptoms like cough, fatigue, and high fever, it was declared “a pandemic” by the W.H.O.

A single, invisible cell is causing a catastrophic effect on every sphere of life i.e. health, economy, travel, you name it. Nations are under indefinite lockdowns

with thousands quarantined and fighting for their lives. Though there is no vaccine and no cure for this deadly virus, still our ever-hoping human minds are eagerly awaiting the major breakthrough in our prophylactic measures to stop the spread.

Amid this overwhelming traumatic time, I feel inspired and amazed by our frontline medical workers. Over worked exhausted physicians, isolated from their families and loved ones, are constantly showing up in the emergency rooms, treating Covid patients. I feel an immense sense of gratitude not only towards the medical fraternity, but other government officials and support workers like delivery persons and alike who are striving for the best to provide the needed support



Having said all that, it feels extremely frustrating to be confined inside the four walls of the house. With no domestic help allowed inside our complex for the last one month, the household chores for my mom has doubled up along with her professional work. I feel for her as there is so much on her plate to manage. But we all have come together to ease her days. And I am enjoying the strong sense of bonding which is emerging in this crisis period. I have also started sincerely appreciating the support we get from our domestic helps. I understand that they are also going through the same sense of anxiety and stress like our parents. I feel Corona has given us a tough time but made us empathetic towards not only our family but our community.

We, in our urban lives, have only heard and read about a sparkling blue sky, bright starlit nights, as narrated by our grandparents. Now we are experiencing them as well. The glimmering stars always smile back at me and act like a ray of hope giving positive vibes reminding that we must stand united. There are videos floating around showing how the flora and fauna are reviving and rejoicing their 'me time'. This pandemic has given our Earth a breather from the constant pollution we humans inflict on her.

The pandemic is no doubt scary and the number of affected patients and deaths across the world makes us worry about our loved ones and us. Nonetheless, it has made us more empathetic and sensitive towards nature and feeling of oneness as a family and community. I hope and wish very soon I walk out of my door victorious and matured!



# Anusha Duttagupta

Grade 7, Shiv Nadar School, Gurgaon

Anusha is an 11 year old from Gurugram. She is an avid reader and loves cooking and inventing new recipes. She is immensely expressive and enjoys the company of her friends and family. 11 year old Anusha has an honest confession- sometimes it's hard to understand adults!



## In the Times of Corona:

### I discovered an unexplored 'me'

It's horrifying that this suddenly emerged virus has spread throughout the world and everyday it is killing thousands of people. From what I have gathered by overhearing news channels and my parents' conversation at dinner table, that if WHO would have warned us little earlier and blocked China's border, such a catastrophe could have been avoided. And until now, we have no vaccination to prevent the spread. It makes me feel worried and concerned for all my family members, specially for my grandparents. Because I hear this virus is deadly for the aged patients.

It is frustrating to know that this entire pandemic could have been avoided if some people would have made better choices. Also staying at home for so long and not having any time away, is very infuriating as we are getting triggered very easily. Then we realize that the fights were pointless. It only takes away the cheers of the house. But otherwise, I am happy that instead of sitting across the cities, my dad is sitting in the next room and working (I miss him when he travels).

My mom is not preoccupied with her classes, workshops, writing and has much more time for me. And most importantly, my sister is forced to spend time with me and not goofing off with her friends. And let me tell you a secret, though we fight a lot, I kinda like spending time with my sister.

I am also enjoying the kitchen time. I baked batches of different kind of cookies for the first from the scratch. And to be very honest I love seeing the pride welling up my parents' and sister's eyes! Their looks shout out at me, "How could our l'le Tua do this?". (Well, Tua, is my pet name, like many other Bengalis).



Even in this time of distress, we have a reason to be proud. Our healthcare workers all around the world are working twenty four-seven and due to them a huge number of patients have recovered. Even though there is no vaccine for this, doctors and scientists are pouring their time and putting their lives in danger. I feel we need to stay positive to support their hard work and dedication. And however boring it may be, being quarantined can help us tide over this terrifying time. If we can strictly maintain social distancing for a while, it could dial down the disease a bit and bring us some hope.

The boredom is endless and extremely depressing at times. Adding to my frustration my mom keeps saying "it's ok to be bored". She has even written an article on that! Sometimes it is really hard to understand adults!! Though she has a point; boredom has led me to explore many sides of me , which I wouldn't have done otherwise, like making chicken quesadilla for my over worked parents (from scratch ☺), making brownies for my sister who can die for a Theobroma brownie. And most importantly, I never knew I can clean the kitchen like a pro after making a mess! My mom says she will take a training session from me. I can't think of a better accolade.

Nonetheless, I really miss my friends . I miss school and I miss the routine. I miss my basket ball classes, the court and the excitement of a tournament. Although when I try to put myself in to routine nowadays, I just don't follow it. My best friends and I face time a lot, but it doesn't have the same feeling. I miss being with them, screaming, shouting, laughing and jumping around with them. However, I have the entire day to day dream and do things which I was not allowed before the lock down, like reading story books till late in the night !

Over all, I feel the even though this virus has frustrated me ,scared me , bored me but I got to know a "me", I didn't know before. I has also made me patient, creative and hopeful and most importantly made me love spending time with my sister who may have to leave home and stay in a hostel in another city in less than a year's time for her higher education.



## Kevin Chugh

Grade 9, The Heritage School, Gurgaon

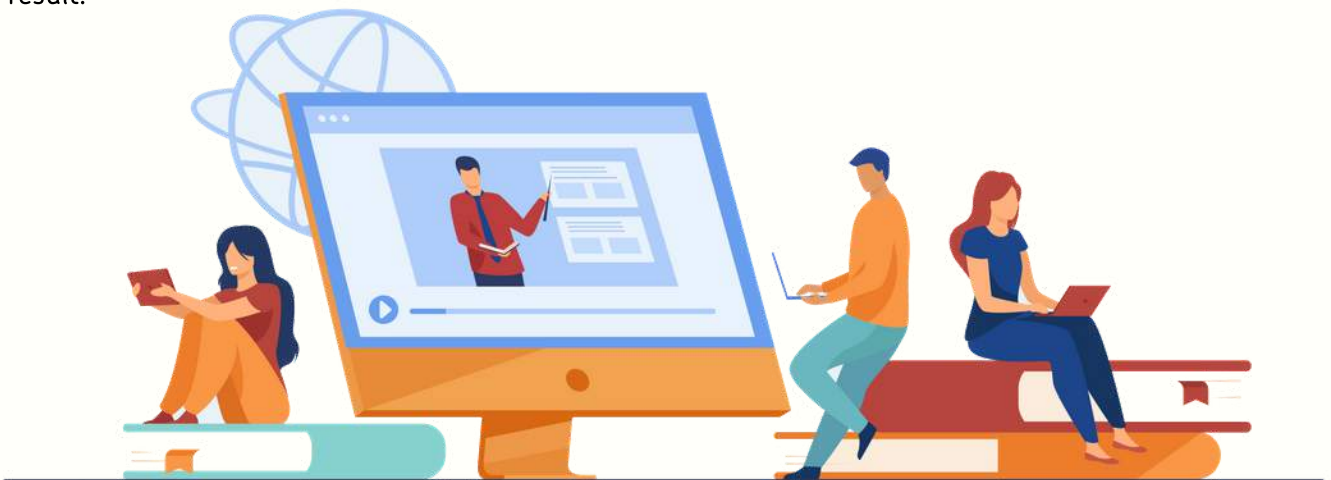
Kevin is easygoing and adventurous. He is observant and aware of things around him. He loves music (metal to be specific) and also plays guitar. 14 year old Kevin Chugh has made an interesting discovery during lockdown - board games rule over digital games. I agree!



### In the Times of Corona: Board games win over digital games

The novel Coronavirus has wreaked havoc in the world, and it is the hot topic of every news channel. But it saddens me that they have only shown the fright of people everywhere in the world. To be honest, I am also afraid that if we go out and if we get the Corona virus, it will travel quickly to other people by contact and we all know that the Corona virus/COVID-19 can't be cured quickly. Despite all of this, there is still hope in my heart. Scientists are working day and night to come out with a vaccine to prevent the spread. I am sure their effort will soon show result.

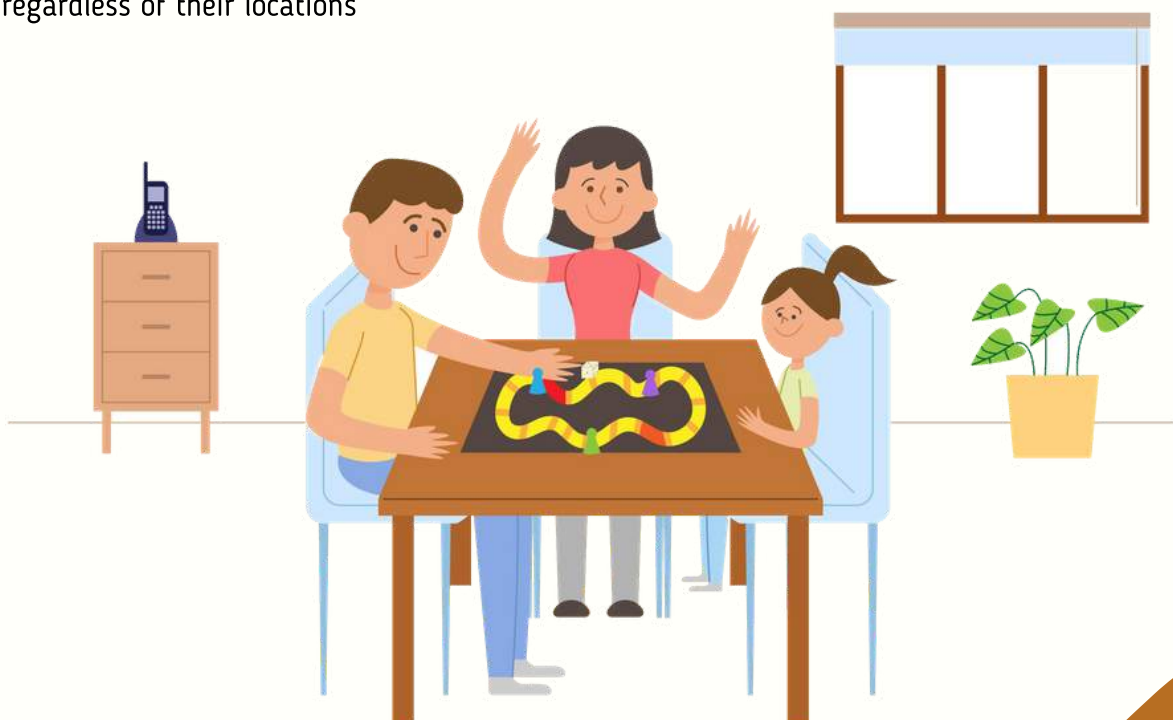
The virus has led to a lockdown for the whole country and we are stuck at home for 24 hours a day. It is very dispiriting that we cannot go out and cannot meet our friends. The days feel so cheerless. It gets so frustrating at times, that you just feel like taking a paper and rip it into thousand pieces. However, there's beautiful bonding which is happening because at home as we get to spend so much quality time with our beloved family members. The cheerless glooms are suddenly shattered with laughter.



Complete lockdown is one of the bravest decisions of our Prime Minister. The outbreak of this virus was seen 3 months ago in our country but it still feels like an eternity has passed. Sometimes I just sit on my bed, stare at the wall and blank out for a few hours. And when I come back to my senses I feel so wasted. Nonetheless, despite the monotony within the confinement, we still have the feeling of freedom to go outside to our balconies, breathe in fresh air like never with so less pollution.

Now the new norm of these online classes makes me hate school. I absolutely despise these classes, where I get to meet my friends through the screens. I miss those online triggers. However, I love the Screen sharing technique. I feel it is highly effective: The advent of screen sharing technology has revolutionized the world of online learning / teaching. It has it paves the way to seamless exchange of information between teachers and students, regardless of their locations

To me, the most important learning in this pandemic time, is the importance of staying hygienic. We can stay away from this deadly virus by washing our hands and not touching our face. One more thing which I feel is a good option is to shift to board games during this quarantined period. Unlike our digital games, which I generally die for, board games make us more interactive and connected with our family members. We should have stocked up more board games at home.



# Yuvraj Sharma

Grade 8, The Sriram School, Gurgaon

This touching tribute is for every mother out there. 13 year old Yuvraj Sharma is fond of writing short stories and sometimes long ones. Besides writing, he likes to create comics. It started off by drawing characters on the corner of notebooks and turned into creating a whole story.

## In the Times of Corona: Mom is relentless like the tides

The scare of COVID-19 reached late to India but soon took over everything. Now, I can't play outdoors or take a casual stroll. I also missed hosting my birthday party because gatherings are restricted. We are all hopeful because the actions taken by the government are helping in somewhat containing the virus from spreading. At first, I was upset but soon I realized that it was for our good that I could not go down to play as a responsible citizen of the country.

I am frustrated to still see children paying no heed to the pandemic situation looming all over us. I feel it is unfair that the lives of the people who stayed home were put at risk by people who were roaming around freely. I am greatly satisfied by seeing that the gatherings around are less and people are finally being responsible.

The times that I love are not those of relaxing but those of doing work with my family. The laughter and the jokes cracked, the pranks played while doing the chores together will be treasured as memories of joy much after this quarantine period is over.



Still there are times when I hate being at home. More than 22 days into the lockdown I now know the true meaning of boredom. I wake up in the morning thinking that I can spend the whole day playing with gadgets. I soon get bored and try to find something else to do.



I understand that there is a deep learning behind all these emotions. I think that this quarantine was needed. We needed to learn that it is also our house and we have certain responsibilities. One more thing that I have learned is that no matter how much work you do, it will be nothing compared to what mothers do. The only person who has done everything for you and is still ready to do anything for you is your mother. She will say that the housework will be evenly divided but still takes all the hard work. Respect and love for my mother has gone up many folds in these stressed times



## Arnav Sawney

Grade 10, The Sri Ram School Aravali, i Gurgaon

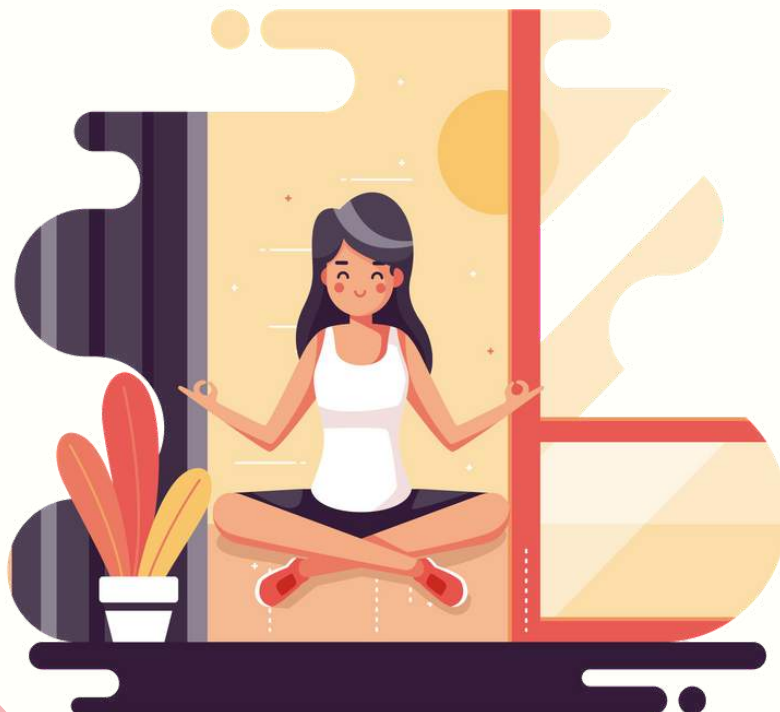
15 year old Arnav has an honest confession - he thought the virus was a blessing in the form of a 'disease' right in time for 10th grade but it wasn't like that at all. Arnav is a voracious reader with a vivid imagination. His passions other than reading, include cooking, playing basketball and working on his environment conservation project called The Last Drop.



### In the Times of Corona: Isolation made the ignored habits of loved ones prominent due to proximity

One of the biggest contributions a civilian can make towards preventing the spread of Coronavirus, is staying at home in isolation. As a student just starting tenth grade, I felt it was a blessing which came in disguise of a disease. I got time to chill before all the pressure starts to accumulate, but I was wrong!

The lack of physical contact and experiencing the monotony has taken a toll on all on us. It has been annoying because I can't even step outside for a casual stroll. Our sleep schedules, our daily routines have been messed up and I've lost my sense of time. Ironically, the greatest frustration is that after a long time, the air and weather in India has improved but I cannot fully participate in it. Now, I feel claustrophobic inside the comfort of my own house, something which I could never predict.



The fact that if we catch COVID-19, there is no cure for it. Over a hundred thousand people have died due to this virus till date. All the millions quarantined in their houses have hope that the lockdown will soon pass. I don't want to lose hope myself, because there surely is a rainbow after a heavy, thunderous rain, there will be bright side to this calamity too.

Though bothersome, this act of isolation has its own vantage points.. Many people have been looking at the brighter sides of this pandemic. People, have started feeling free, especially students. People are catching up on their television shows, binge-watch new ones and do thing they do not usually have time for. I, for example, play with my dog as much I can, which I could not earlier as my exams were on. Seeing the same faces all day long for the past few weeks has also been boring.

Quarantined inside the house for weeks together, has isolated us, but brought us closer to our inner circle, our family members. It has been an enriching time with my loved ones. We have been each others' source of support. This has obviously deepened our bonds further. However, being cooped up had together for a long is making life difficult at times. For example, some habits of our loved ones, which we used to ignore before the lock down period, have become prominent due to proximity.

We all have been having different feelings about this lockdown situation, but it is time to bottle them up because this is for the greater good and there's nothing more we can do right now than keep up our spirits high and wait.



# Azarya Chopra

Grade 6, The Heritage School, Gurgaon

10 year old Azarya Chopra is grateful for his privileges and praying for those not as fortunate. We are bowled by this humanitarian's essay. Azarya detests lockdown because he loves to play with his friends in the park. His favourite sport is cricket. He wants to be an automotive engineer and wants to go to IIT Delhi. He is very fond of cars, cricket and the English language.



## In the Times of Corona: My Quarentined prayer

Is it a nightmare or a reality? I still can't decide! Yes! I am talking about the contagious Coronavirus which has spread throughout the world like wildfire and at this moment, and no one has a vaccine. The best doctors and medical engineers are working day and night to find a solution, but right now it is all about baby steps. Right now, the most we can do is stay at home and play our duty in containing the spread of the virus.

I am very frustrated as the infected cases around the world were far less, three weeks ago to where they are now. Alas, America is going through a rough patch. Though I am glad I am in India my heart goes out for them. We all have this fear of massive outbreak in India, but because of the heavy measure put on the whopping population of 1.3 billion people, the cases are gradually rising.

Due to the lockdown, I'm very bored because I can't play in the park, must attend never ending virtual classes, and I can neither meet my friends nor my cousins. Even though I can be on my laptop all day long and immerse myself in playing Fortnite, I seem to have a love and hate relationship with not attending school physically right now.



I am glad that I can binge eat all my favourite treats and play games, but it saddens me that I have to use my laptop not only for fun but for work too. For my school, I need to wake up very early which gives me the same feeling of monotony as I experienced before.

What I've learned from this quarantine period is that we should be always grateful for our privileges in life. There are so many innocent people who are suffering because they are daily wage workers or don't have a roof over their head, and are very different from someone like me who can stay at home not worrying about expenses. My prayers will always be with them.

# Arnav Goyal

Grade 6, Lotus Valley School, Gurugram

He has an interesting theory where he feels like the Coronavirus came at this time to teach us who the real boss is. He is a budding writer and a keen learner. He is always ready to polish his skills and is very meticulous in his tasks. In addition to all of these, he is also good at karate and robotics.

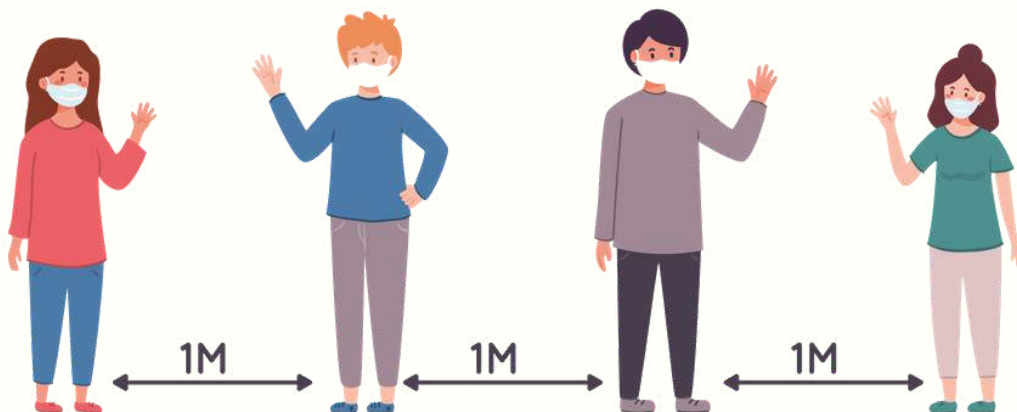


## In the Times of Corona: When the vicious virus stealthily sneaked in

While my exams were going on, we had already made plans for a family vacation to Lohagarh Farms. We were looking forward to a colourful spring amid the nature. I was eagerly awaiting an uninhibited playtime. An unbridled time where there will be no studies or homework and the weather at it's best.

However, after my third exam got over, my classmates told me that a new virus named Corona Virus has affected China and it is killing people. Corona Virus is communicable, therefore, it can spread from an affected person to a healthy person. Initially China was the epicentre of the disease, but soon it spread like flowing water to other countries, making it a pandemic.

As the days went by, I got to know something scary! Corona has also entered India. In my wildest dreams I had never thought that Corona from China can affect us as well. At first, everyone around, including myself thought that Corona Virus cannot affect us, but the number of Corona positive patients in India kept on increasing. Soon it became the talk of the town. "There is no treatment and no vaccination". This sentence scares me to death! What happens if any of my loved ones get infected. A new term called "social distancing" has become a buzz word now. I too feel that's the only way out from this dreadful situation. The lock down which has started from 24th of March instilled a great hope in all of us. I am hoping post this prolonged lockdown the deadly virus will vanish!



On the other hand, I was getting bored, didn't know what to do in these locked up days. I could not go out to parks or invite friends to my house. Also, my school was closed, so I had no work to do at home. For some of my friends online classes had started, I was expecting mine to start soon. But there was no update. I tried keeping my self engaged by playing board games like carom with my grandpa, but still it's not as much fun as playing with my friends in school or in the park.

Nonetheless, I am happy because my mother was at home. Before, most of the time she used to be away for her work. Life is so much happier with everyone around at home.

Also, in all these days I have realised that nature has its own way of taking revenge. For all the damage we have caused her, nature, it is taking its revenge by locking us inside our homes. I also realised the importance of home and family.



# Aarav Shrivastav

## Grade 7 , Pathways School, Gurugram

12 year old Aarav loves being his mom's 'amigo' as they do home chores together. He is fond of reading mythological books. His favourites are Ramayan and Mahabharata. His favourite characters are Meghnada and Bheem and admires them for their strength and appearance. Aarav likes to indulge in sports and is an active squash player. He also loves painting, playing drums and doing origami.



## In the Times of Corona: Being my Mom's Amigo

I feel scared of this deadly virus, THE COVID 19 !

If infected, I will have to live in a hospital away from my loved ones, which sends a shiver down my spine. Covered in needles and pins, my every movement will be tracked by the doctors who are tirelessly working to find a cure. Of course, I fear death and I want to hang Coronavirus to death!

Staying quarantined inside my house has made me feel different emotions, mostly frustration, fear and agony. I love my life and the people in it; so the thought of my loved ones or me getting affected scares me to death.

Also, I feel bored at home because I miss my school, my friends and my teachers. It pains me that I cannot physically talk or play with my peers as we only meet virtually over the online classes.

However, there are some happiness as well in being inside the house. I love being my mother's sous chef and I feel elated when she says I am her that amigo she always longed for. There is also a sense of achievement in doing my own things like making my bed, folding and arranging my clothes. And as I help her with chores like laying tables, picking up the dry clothes from the clothes line, I realize how much work she has to do.

This time alone has made me realize that this time can be put to good use. During this lock down period, we can learn new things and nurture our hobbies like reading and drawing . Learning how to work in the kitchen, do things on our own without any help will make us more independent and self sufficient.



## Isha Bansal

Grade 9, The Suncity World School

Isha is a sweet, loving and kindhearted girl. She has imbibed good moral values where justice and equality tops her list. She is also updated on all social issues.



In the Times of Corona:  
**We have learned to value things  
which we have taken for  
granted.**

The times are extremely difficult now!

The Corona outbreak affected many lives both health wise and economically. The source of income of daily wages earners, farmers and small-scale workers are terribly impacted. The news channels are reporting more and more cases, and I wonder how little we knew about this almost unknown virus. Now almost every day we are getting new information on this pandemic. Everyone is panic stricken and so am I.

The other extreme also concerns me. Not enough knowledge and fake news are extremely dangerous and can harm us. Yet amid all these I see a ray of hope. I see people are aware, conscious, and taking the required precautions. I am sure the disease will disappear one day, and we shall be able to get back to our normal life soon.

**STREAMING**

**FAKE NEWS**

LOREM IPSUM WORLD NEWS

Like all difficult situations, corona days also have their own challenges. As our domestic helps are not allowed, we need to pitch-in with the household chores. Now, I am doing the dishes, washing the clothes, folding the unfolded clothes. These are very daunting at times.

However, there is also a sense of achievement too amid this sadness. I learned to make cakes and cupcakes (chocolate and vanilla flavored). I also learned painting from my mom. The other day, she appreciated my knack for keeping my room clean and organized and cheered me by saying it reflects my personality.

At times I feel as if I am tied to a chain and I am not able to go out of my home. I miss my friends, my school, my playtime with them. I was particularly sad as I could not have my birthday party. My parents had arranged a big bash for me which had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, I am also finding those moments of joy in this quarantined time as I create a new painting, swirl in the rhythm of beats and do my stretches on the yoga mat.

However, despite all these I have felt this phase taught us to value things which we have taken for granted. I feel difficult times do not always destroy us ; they make us more mindful and stronger.





# Malavika Balchandran

Class 9, The Heritage School, Gurugram

Malavika Balachandran loves dancing and playing the piano. She loves to travel and make new friends. She enjoys reading thriller novels. Malavika aspires to be a scientist. She has found the magic recipe to deepen family bonding during this special day- UNO!



## In the Times of Corona:

### UNO is our new found love

This highly contagious corona virus has taken over the world in no time. Every news article, be it print or digital, is reporting corona news. I am scared to read or watch news. It almost feels as if this is going to go on forever; Scary!!!! I think we all need a break from this.

In my conscience, I know that this pandemic will stop eventually. Science and awareness would certainly beat this epidemic. We just need to be patient and disciplined and wait for the situation to get better. Staying locked up in my house without meeting my school friends makes me depressed. I am an outdoor person; I need to get out of the house at least once. Even though I go out for cycling and walks, I feel claustrophobic at times.

As I pen this down, I do appreciate the requirement of this nationwide lockdown to save lives. And I can't begin to express my gratitude to all in the medical fraternity who are working tirelessly to save each and every life. We are thankful to the civic workers who are braving their lives and still showing up for work everyday.

My heart goes out to the migrant workers who are tirelessly waiting to get back to their villages. They have been subjected to this adversity for no fault of theirs. I recently saw a video where some civil servants were wearing masks and spraying them with disinfectants. It is so difficult for me to even fathom something like this. I am sincerely praying for their safe return home!!



For me as well, life has become slightly overwhelming with these continuous virtual classes and endless offline submissions. My entire last quarter of school is happening online. It is taxing to sit in front of the laptop for seven hours. We will be graduating to our next academic year, online. I could have never imagined of such a cast down culmination of a wonderful academic year. I do have a long chat session with my friends daily but the camaraderie we had in school cannot be replicated virtually.

Of course, there are some silver linings in this lockdown too. I get to spend more time with my dad and mom. I cycle with my dad and go for walks with my parents every day. This was very rare before the lock down because of the paucity of time. Binge watching my favourite Netflix shows, listening to music keeps me upbeat.

My parents and I have found a new love. And it is UNO!. I remember buying UNO cards years ago, but as a family we never got enough time to play. It was lying in one corner layered with dust. And now in this quarantine time UNO magic has boosted our bond many folds with so much fun.

Baking was never my thing, but I have realized with a little practise everything gets better. I have learned how to whip a Belgium waffle. Eating waffles with Nutella and ice-cream sure makes me forget this nightmare for a while!!

I am planning to use my 'coronified' summer break to good use. Some good books and revisiting my old dance lessons, should keep me productively and interestingly busy.

This pandemic has sure created a lot of chaos and panic but has put life into perspective for me. It has taught me to live life to the fullest and never wait for anything. It has made me set many goals. I am sure we all can come together and fight this virus. Stay safe, stay healthy!



# Samaira Chugh

Grade 6 The Heritage School, Gurgaon

Samaira is a wonderful artist and basketball is her favourite sport. She is a girl full of fun and spends some of her time playing piano. She loves to hangout with her friends. She pours her heart out in this honest and open essay about how life has changed for children like her.



## In the Times of Corona: Hygiene is the most powerful weapon now

Everybody knows that covid-19 can kill us or harm us. And it is killing thousands of people every week! I pray for all people affected by corona virus. USA and Europe are reeling under the effect of this deadly virus. I really wish this deadly virus disappears soon from the face of our Earth.

However, I have hope that we can kill the corona virus by taking some precautions, like washing our hands every hour, wearing a mask when we step out of our doors and maintaining 6 feet distance from everybody.

Staying within the house is one terrible frustration, but it's even more horrible to hear only news and incidents about this virus. It feels like there is nothing else to talk about. I get bored all the time and I don't know what to do these days. I can't play downstairs in the field. I can't even walk downstairs. My parents tell me to read a book or study, but it's even more boring than watching TV. Nonetheless, in this massive boredom, there is some freedom also. I can watch TV at a stretch for 3 hours or play video games in between the classes.



But have you ever thought how long we will go on like this? I know we have to continue until the Corona virus gets over. So, we need to stop it and to stop it we need to take all the precautions, be alert and most importantly be hygienic.

Hygiene is one of the most powerful weapons against this wicked virus!

## Parisha Minocha

1st year, Delhi University

Parisha is a History Honours student studying at Delhi University. Of her many interests, Modern Art and historical monuments are on top of her list. She also likes to sing and sketch in her free time!



### In the Times of Corona: People will eventually become more conscientious.

As the coronavirus scare has hit all of us hard, the only thing keeping me afloat is the hope for a better tomorrow. Coronavirus/COVID-19 after being termed as a pandemic by World Health Organisation has sent a panic wave around the globe and countries have been put under complete lockdown.

Like all others, I am also spending a good amount of time with my family. And as we waded through these difficult times together our bonds are getting stronger. However, there is also a subtle urge to find a 'me' zone for myself.

Nonetheless, amid all struggles and scare, what I find heartening is nature is reawakening in it's full glory. Turtles have returned to Orissa Coast, dolphins are seen on the shores of Australian beaches, the pollution level has never been so low in Delhi and all metro cities.

Every morning, instead of waking up to horns and sirens, people now wake up to the chirping of birds. This gives me a sense of hope but what I hate is that some careless people are still roaming around on streets not caring about how important it is for everyone to stay indoors.

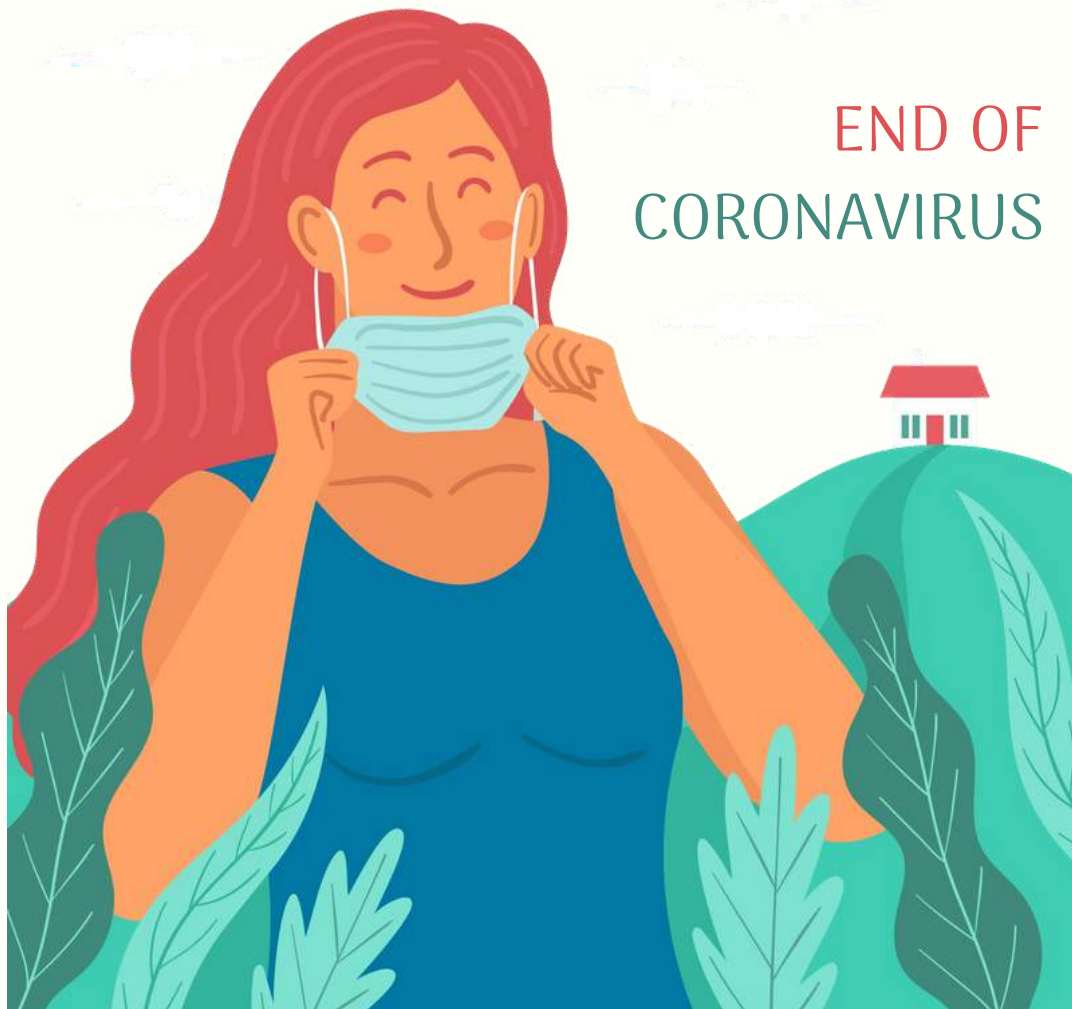


All day long I go through social media accounts that are filled with people being so productive and working on new recipes. This touches a dark corner in my heart because I feel that this pandemic is not a productivity contest.

There are other things that bother me as well. I somehow feel that I am not been able to keep up with the pace of online classes. My fellow peers have been constantly reading the given articles and responding to it while I can barely wake before twelve in noon. My routine has gone completely haywire. I feel I am left in behind the race of learning new skills.

Assisting in household chores, make me realize how difficult it is to keep up the house without anyone's help. I am touched the way the elders in my house are constantly trying to cheer up our mood by spending quality time with us; by playing board games, making lip-smacking food and putting in all efforts to shield us from the trying times.

Everyone is scared, and I feel the terror will continue to reign for a while. Despite all the darkness around, I see a bright light ahead. I strongly feel this hard time shall make people more aware, conscientious, and empathetic!



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THANK YOU

