



LITERA LOCKDOWN STORIES

THE LITERACENTER OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Welcome Message

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'It always seems impossible until it's done!'

-Nelson Mandela-

...and you, our dear students made it!

During a difficult period in our life, we worked together and took advantage of technology to continue our lessons online... because the Corona virus was not going to stop us from learning and reaching our goals!

And for that, we are proud of you!

Thank you for being mature and responsible during your online lessons. Thank you for not giving up on learning!

It will be a time we will remember forever. And for us, it will be a pleasant one... because we shared it with you...

Your teachers
Evie & Semeli

FIRST PLACE IN THE LITERACENTER FINAL YEAR EXAMS:

YEAR 1 - Anna Constantinou & Lydia Christodoulou

YEAR 2 - Maximos Loukaidis

YEAR 3 - Emily Gkeorkian

YEAR 4 - Anna Sotiriadou & Tatiana Vryonidou

YEAR 5 - Natalia Anastasiou

YEAR 6 - Eliana Christodoulou

YEAR 7 - Natalie Eftimova & Nicole Gkeorkian

YEAR 8 - Chrysanthos Notarides

LITERA BOOKWORMS OF THE YEAR:

YEAR 1 - Anna Constantinou

YEAR 2 - Constantinos Anastasiou

YEAR 3 - Katerina Karayianni

YEAR 4 - Tatiana Vryonidou



SNEAK PEEKS FROM OUR ONLINE LESSONS:



Story 1: The Coronavirus: An Unseen Enemy

BY CHRYSA CHARALAMBOUS
YEAR 5

The coronavirus appeared in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. Since that moment China has gone into quarantine. This fact affected people all over the world and especially old people who can die because of the virus. Covid-19 is an unseen enemy for us and it is dangerous for our grandparents. It is a contagious disease with symptoms such as temperature, coughing, fatigue and more.

There were many measures against the coronavirus in Cyprus. All schools in my country closed for a long time. We had to stay at home only with our families and practise social distancing with our friends. We had to send one SMS per day and if it got confirmed from the government we could leave from home. All shops closed and events were cancelled or postponed. The churches closed and entertainment places too. It was mandatory that only a few people entered the supermarkets and bakeries, like two or three per time. In other words, there was a lockdown and we had to go into quarantine.

My time during quarantine wasn't bad. I had a chance to sleep, cook, draw, think and watch Netflix. The hardest part of quarantine was the fact that I couldn't see my friends or my family. Sometimes I felt bored, but I usually felt happy and relaxed because I could do and try new activities which I couldn't do before the quarantine. I slept after midnight and I woke up at midday. I played a lot with my doggie. The best part of quarantine was when I made cookies, cinnabons, a smoothie bowl and tiramisu. They were so tasty! Also, I painted the wall in my room. I watched some very good series and movies on Netflix when I didn't have my online lessons.

Whenever I went outside I put hand sanitizer on my hands and of course I followed the medical advice from the health authorities. I wore my mask every time I went out. I won't have a problem if I have to go into quarantine again because I relaxed and lived so many funny moments which I will remember for a long time! Quarantine wasn't so boring after all. Basically I had fun with it!

I hope the vaccine against the coronavirus is found as soon as possible because it is the only solution in order to go back to normal. One good thing is that we understood how important family and friends are in our lives!!!

Story 2: Covid-19 Times

BY MICHAELLA CHRISTODOULOU
YEAR 5

Covid-19 started in December 2019 in Wuhan in China. This virus affected the whole world. Covid-19 started by an animal - the bat - and is transmitted from human to human. The Corona virus is a very dangerous disease. The main symptoms are coughing, sneezing, fever, body ache, fatigue and difficulty breathing.

The measures taken by our Government were quick and effective lockdown, social distancing, curfew and quarantine. We also had to wear masks, use antiseptic hand gel and wear gloves. This situation affected the whole world and of course me. I missed my friends a lot and I was so bored. I was trying to spend my time watching movies, playing games and exercising but time always ran out in the end.

I hope all this is over very soon. Let's get back to reality and let this whole situation stay in the past like a bad dream that will never come back.

"The hardest part was the fact that I couldn't see my friends or my family."

-Chrysa, Year 5



"We need to stay positive and happy with what we can do right now!"

-Efrosini, Year 5

Story 3: Staying Calm during the Covid-19 Crisis

BY EFROSINI KERKIDOU
YEAR 5

It all started in December 2019 in Wuhan in China when the doctors discovered this virus which would affect the whole world! They called it "COVID-19" because it means "Corona Virus Disease 2019."

The government took some serious measures to stop the spread of the disease! One of them was quarantine, which meant that we had to stay at home all the time. We also had to wear masks and use hand sanitizer. All events had to be cancelled or postponed. They set a curfew and banned home visits! They also said that we had to be careful and practise social distancing with people.

I was very calm during these hard times and I am still because I know that some day this whole situation is going to stop. I am just thinking of positive and good things only! During the quarantine I talk with my friends and relatives on the phone and on the computer. It's a bit difficult but over time we will get used to it. I also play with my dog all day! I really love playing with my dog! I watch TV all the time as well! I haven't missed school so much, but I miss my friends a lot!

I really hope this is all over very soon and that everything goes back to normal as soon as possible! I hope everyone stays safe and at home during these hard times! We need to stay positive and happy with what we can do right now!

"Let's get back to reality and let this whole situation stay in the past like a bad dream that will never come back."

-Michaella, Year 5

Story 4: My Quarantine Experience during the Covid-19 Lockdown

BY ELENA DEMETRIOU

ADULTS 3 (UPPER-INTERMEDIATE)

I do not remember myself feeling so exhausted - not even when I was working. During the Covid-19 quarantine I felt more exhausted than ever.

When I heard about that virus I could not imagine how serious it was. But as the time went on and as this virus was spreading all over the world I believed that for sure it was as serious as it sounded. On the 12th of March I had to stop working because the virus was dangerous for children and the government had to protect them. Many businesses had to close down as well because the government was forced to prevent the virus from spreading.

During the first week everything was okay because I could not imagine that we would be at home for so many days without working and going anywhere. So I started decluttering my house and doing a lot of things that I had to prepare and could not find the time to do so before.

As the days went on, I started to feel more exhausted than ever because my daughter did not like all this situation. She wanted to go to school, she wanted her friends and at night she woke up and cried without reason. Moreover, I started to feel more nervous than ever because I did not know how our lives would go on without our salaries and how difficult all of this was. So to make myself feel better I decided to stop watching the news on TV and I tried to do things that made me feel happy and calm so that I could manage the whole situation.

The time went by and after the 21st of May I feel free at last because I can go anywhere without having to send any messages and running to get everything done in time.



"I decided to stop watching the news on TV and I tried to do things that made me feel happy and calm so that I could manage the whole situation."

-Elena, Adults 3

Story 5: Getting Used to the Quarantine Routine

BY NATALIA ANASTASIOU

YEAR 5

COVID-19 started in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. As you know, it was so difficult for all of us to stay calm because it affected the whole world. The name of this virus stands for Corona Virus Disease 2019.

Well, when this virus made its first appearance, the government took some very important measures to stop the spread of it. One of them - in my opinion the most important one - was to stay at home until the virus disappeared. We had to stay inside during the lockdown and if some of the virus' symptoms appeared then you had to call 1420. People were afraid and out of control but then they got used to this routine and started using masks, gloves and hand sanitizers.

At first, I was kind of worried about the whole thing but then I was okay with it like other people were. I was bored sometimes because I had to study all the time but I had some free time too. I did some really creative things like drawing, painting and writing poems. I watched my favourite series on television "Penny On Mars". I did some exercise and went for some walks. I baked muffins and they turned out to be so good!

I really want this thing to end soon because I miss my friends. I miss hanging out with them, playing basketball, and going to school. I hope a vaccine will be available in the next few weeks.

"I did some really creative things like drawing, painting, and writing poems."

-Natalia, Year 5



Story 6: Dealing with the Covid-19 Lockdown and Quarantine

BY SMARAGDA CHRISTODOULOU
ADULTS 3 (UPPER-INTERMEDIATE)

The government announced a lockdown until mid-June. I couldn't imagine how difficult it would be. Everything was closed; department stores, hairdressers, small businesses, supermarkets, private companies and other places. The quarantine had just started. I couldn't believe it.

It was mid-March when the lockdown started. All TV channels were talking about the pandemic that killed thousands of people. I started feeling scared and thinking when this catastrophic situation would end. Thousands of people have been dying every day and I feel sad. I am sure that doctors, nurses and all the staff in the hospitals have been helping all the ill people. I wish I could do the same but unfortunately, I cannot. I must stay at home to protect myself from Covid-19.

My company announced that all employees should go home until further notice. I shut down my computer and left the building. Can you imagine the feelings that I had until I finally entered my car? I was frightened and my whole body was trembling. While I was driving, I kept reminding myself that everything would be okay.

I arrived home and the quarantine had just started. I couldn't turn on the television because all the channels were discussing the pandemic that lies on our island. I was trying to find something more interesting to do in order to feel happier.

So, I decided to learn new things. I had bought some books about painting before the quarantine started. I opened them and started reading page by page. After a lot of hours of reading, it was time for the TV news. I decided to turn on the television to hear about some positive announcements. However, what happened was that the first announcement was tragic: a lot of people on our island caught the virus and the actual number of them was announced. I was terrified so I decided to go to sleep.

The next day, I woke up, I got dressed and I was ready to continue my painting lessons with my self-help books. I wasn't very concentrated and I was feeling tired. I hadn't slept very well the previous night. So I decided to do something more relaxing. I went to my kitchen and found some recipes that I could cook. I started making a lava cake. It was so delicious! By the time I was done with the lava cake the time had passed and I decided to turn on the TV. The channels kept discussing the pandemic and what was happening in Cyprus at the time. Unfortunately, the news was bad. The first death was announced in Cyprus. I turned off the TV immediately and I hardly said anything all day.

The days were passing and more cases and deaths were observed. I couldn't describe my feelings. Mind you, that during the quarantine I discovered a lot of aspects of my character. I didn't know that I could paint or cook.

Now, almost two months later, I already feel better. The cases have been decreasing rapidly and the good news has been released. The president announced that on the 21st of May most companies will reopen and we will be allowed to move more freely. I was so happy and excited.

I can visit my family after a long time and can invite my friends to my house. As time goes by, I feel more positive. Cases are being reduced day by day.

It is Tuesday, 19th of May. I am writing this essay to express how I have been feeling since the quarantine started. At the beginning of the quarantine I was so scared. Now I realise that the lockdown gave me more time to discover things that I love. I started baking, painting and improving my English. I found ways to deal with the pressure and the fear that I felt.

Two days left until the quarantine finally ends. I can say that no matter how difficult the whole situation has been, I will always remember that better days are coming! I look forward to a better future with a lot of happiness.

"Now I realise that the lockdown gave me more time to discover things that I love. I started baking, painting and improving my English. I found ways to deal with the pressure and the fear that I felt."

- Smaragda, Adults 3



Story 7: Keeping Busy during the Covid-19 Quarantine

BY CHRISTINA GEORGIU
YEAR 5

The coronavirus, which is also known as Covid-19, started in December 2019 in China. Covid-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of the coronavirus. 'CO' stands for 'corona', 'VI' for 'virus' and 'D' for 'disease'.

Being in quarantine is not boring if you do something interesting. I always felt happy, but sometimes I also felt sad because I missed my friends. During the Covid-19 quarantine I watched series on Netflix, I sometimes drew, and I played with my pets. I also read books, I helped my mum with the housework, and I did some cooking.

I hope everything goes back to normal as soon as possible!



"Being in quarantine is not boring if you do something interesting." - Christina, Year 5