

Why is Everything Different Now?

By
Wordsmyth
WILD





Story Key Words

contact

disease

germs

illness

infected

isolate

polluted

treatments

vaccines

virus



Teachers, the story's key words are all entries in WILD, the Wordsmyth Illustrated Learner's Dictionary. Links to these entries appear in the text of the story so that they can be accessed during reading. The easy-to-read WILD definitions and example sentences for these words can also be used as support for pre-teaching or for post-reading activities.



A while ago, I used to do many things. I used to go to school, go to the park, go with my mom to the supermarket, go visit my family.

Now everything has changed. Before, my city was very crowded with lots of cars and people outside everywhere. Now the city is empty and silent. A few weeks ago, I could not see or hear any animals, except maybe some bugs... But now I can hear the birds outside! The skies are very clear and blue, and the air is very clean. My dad says it's because the city is less **polluted** now. It is a nice feeling!

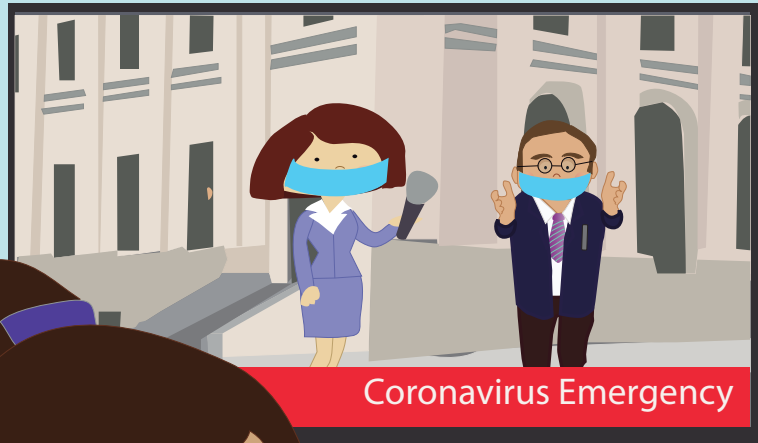




**Other things have changed too. I am having school online. It's OK. I like it!
But one time, my teacher was explaining to us about types of clouds
and I fell asleep! My mom had to wake me up. It was so embarrassing!**



I miss some things. I miss playing with my friends, going to the park, going to the movies. But the good thing is--now my whole living room is a sports center!



When we began to stay at home,
I was scared and confused. All the
news and TV shows talked about the
same thing all the time.

The coronavirus!



On the first day we had school online, our teacher explained to us what the coronavirus is. She said that it is a **virus** that causes an **illness**. She said a virus is a kind of **germ**.

Then we asked her many questions:

“An illness? ...Am I sick?... Is my family sick?... Is that why we cannot go out?”

But my teacher said, “No, we are not sick. We are keeping ourselves from getting sick.”

“By staying at home, we are keeping ourselves from getting **infected** with the virus. Also, when people who do have the virus stay inside, they keep other people safe from the virus too.”



Our teacher explained to us that if we want to keep ourselves from getting sick, we need to do two things.

First, we need to **isolate** ourselves and avoid **contact** with other people.

Second, we need to wash our hands a lot and not touch our face.

Our teacher said that when we touch our eyes, nose, or mouth, **germs** can get into our bodies. That's how viruses can make us sick.

Then I was thinking, "These things are not too hard to do if you want to stay healthy."





I felt better then, but one night, just as I was falling asleep, I suddenly started to think: “Why are we so worried about getting sick now? People get sick all the time. People are always getting colds or the flu, but they never closed school before, and we never had to stay home all the time...”

The next morning, I woke up and found my mom. I asked her, “Mom, what is so different about the coronavirus? Why is everything so different now?”

She said to me, “Sweetheart, this **virus** is new. It means that doctors don’t know much about it, and they don’t have **treatments** or **vaccines** yet to protect us from it. Also, when people get sick, they don’t know how sick they will get. Some people just feel like they have a cold or the flu, but some people get very sick, and it’s hard for them to breathe. This can be very serious.”





“We are going to be fine, though,” my mom said, “because we are staying at home and being careful. Why don’t you think about something you really want to do in this time of staying at home? This can be a fun time for you. A time when you can do something special. Meanwhile, doctors are working to find a **treatment** for the **disease**.”

I always wanted to write a story about my grandpa, so that's what I'm going to do. He is always telling me stories about his hometown, so my story is going to be about that. What would your story be about?



I think this is a time to do whatever you imagine: Write a story or a book, paint an amazing picture, read about places you'd like to go to, make a video, learn to cook.... Just do it!



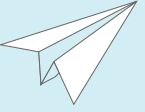
THE END

WILD



Wordsmyth Illustrated Learner's Dictionary.

Draw your feelings. What special thing would you like to do while you are staying at home?

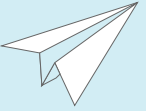


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Draw your feelings. Is there something that makes you afraid or upset during this time when everything is so different?

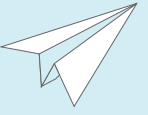


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Draw your feelings. Is there anything that you like about this special time we are living in?
Is there something that is making you happy?



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