



## Samples of Student's Creative Writing Responses to COVID-19

### Isolating aloneness

Staring at faces on a screen, a single view,  
Protected we remain alone.  
The world put on pause,  
Now we are alone.  
Time passes slowly until 3 weeks rush by leaving nothingness in their wake,  
Still alone.  
Resolutions lay discarded, 28 days of yoga is a long time  
Seeking to fill the emptiness, all alone.  
Friendships only friendships due to proximity,  
We endure alone.  
Lamingtons do not last long in a house of five  
Feeling alone.  
The news is scary, paranoia heightens, people dying.  
Alone.  
Toilet paper is an essential item,  
Alone is frightening.  
Do not bike ride carrying a puzzle, pieces go flying  
We survive alone.  
Balmoral to Clifton Gardens is a 40-minute walk,  
Strengthening alone.  
Social Interactions heighten happiness,  
Maybe we are not alone.  
Communities are strong, distance can be overcome,  
Together.

Alice Harper, Year 10

### **Going into lockdown!**

Well it seemed so daunting at first, not being able to see my grandparents, not being able to go to school to learn and spend times with my friends, or to go to my ballet classes.

How would home schooling work, would I get behind?

These were just few questions that came to my mind, and naturally my anxiety heightened.

But it wasn't before long that I realised it was going to be ok.

I could facetime my grandparents and friends and whilst it wasn't the same it was nice.

Then I learnt how to use zoom and learn online.

I now participate in zoom for my ballet classes.

My anxiety has since subsided, and it wasn't long before I was settled into my new routine.

“Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them makes life meaning full”

Joshua J Marine.

Claudia Demos, Year 8

### **A reflection**

Over the holidays, as a part of my Design and Technology project, I built a skate ramp with my dad. All the skateparks are currently closed so I have been skateboarding at home and in my local area. I do miss the skating community and the support which everyone offers such as: advice; a friendly fist-bump; or cheering when you land a trick, but I know that those connections will still be there when the world rights itself again. This building project was a lot of fun to design and problem-solve and I was able to spend some quality time with my family. I am really grateful for the opportunity to make my own skate ramp (a long-held dream of mine) and am enjoying spending time outside, in the garden, with the dog.

Jedda Thorley, Year 12

## Year 7 ENB English

**We are tougher than we seem. We are tougher than we think.** We can seem so helpless compared to other amazing species or people in movies, but the movies are just pretend. And some creatures may be wildly intelligent and have gobsmacking skills, but we are the amazing ones.

We as humans made this entire world how it is today. We evolved as a species and have been inventing things for the better ever since. Even the first ever tools, like a cutting stone or a spear made of a sharpened stick, were amazing ideas that lead on to more ones. We are always thinking of how to improve living conditions. For example, when people in the early days needed to transport things, they would carry as much as they could carry. Which was often too much and too heavy. But the people then didn't care, they just needed to do something, whether it was easy or not. One person thought that they could do better, and wondered what would help these people heave objects around. So the wheel came into existence. And from there, it was carts, horse drawn carriages, cars, buses, trains, aeroplanes . . .

Ideas grow and evolve faster than we do. Almost every day, there is at least one idea that will change the world somehow. It could be as ambitious an idea as a way to cure cancer, or as simple as a new shade of blue. But even the smallest ideas grow. Without these ideas we wouldn't be advancing anywhere from where we are right now.

So whatever new idea sparks and flickers into existence, whether it is a worldwide sensation or an unnoticed tweak, whether the creator gets credit or nothing, whether it seems like a huge step forward or a tiny change in what we do, it will change the world.

Alexa Argy

Currently in Sydney and all over the world we have been self-isolating ourselves from friends and family so that we don't catch or spread the current awful pandemic the 'corona virus' or 'Covid 19'.

This pandemic has led to schools closing and cafes and restaurants closing or only doing take away meals and drinks. I have been unable to see my grandparents because in this current situation elderly and people with medical problems are more at risk of catching this virus.

Anyway, I am currently doing school lessons on an online video conferencing app, ZOOM. This has led to be the easiest solution to most schools, works. I cannot complain too much seeing I do not have the corona virus and this situation could get much worse.

**We are living in a world of people waiting to breathe again,** but we have not stopped. The clocks are still ticking, most children are still working. We are waiting for that breath of fresh air to come and relieve us from these heavy times. This is not easy, but we must cope. I cannot explain to you how hard it has been just waiting, waiting for us to go back to school, waiting to see my friends in the flesh, waiting... just waiting. Our carefully crafted illusion with predicted security, destroyed by a simple virus. We watch as our well-oiled gears of our world machine turn to a grinding halt that is turning our world to rust. Eery silence prowl empty streets. Enforced isolation teaching us just how much we need each other.

Camille McCarthy

**We are tougher than we seem. We are tougher than we think.** In the near future, or far away future, there will always be bad days, always be something that you do not think is right and there will always be someone who wants to bring you down. However, what the humankind does not understand is that, we are so much stronger than we think, and we need to push through those bad times, in order to live freely and happily.

Those bad times are what distinguishes the good times from the bad times so, without that line, there would be no classifications of good and bad. This is what people need to realise. In bad times, find it within yourself to say, "I will do this, and I can do this."

Now keep in mind, this is not saying that it's not normal to feel sad or be upset, sometimes the only way to move on from things is accepting the and moving on. But the important thing to realise is that in those times, realise it within yourself that you can, and you will get through it, that is almost certain.

Cassie Davies

**We are living in a world full of people waiting to breathe again.** Waiting to live again. Waiting to be normal again. Yet when we think about our lives in the past years, we begin to appreciate everything that life brought us. Even the simplest things such as toilet paper and hand sanitiser feel like gold today. But out of this crisis, dreams, opportunities and most importantly understanding has emerged from the dark shrouded shadows of disease and death. It seems that humanity took the essence of living for granted and trotted it underfoot. Maybe gratitude has been gained? Maybe greediness has been put out by the love in people's hearts? And maybe some people have not changed? But this pandemic has been a wake-up call to many and has tied them on the tracks of financials. But at the end of the day hope is the medicine we all need.

Hope is what pushes the caterpillar out of the cocoon. Hope starts the sunrise and gets us through the day. When the world seems like it is smacking you in the face, hope does not judge or hurt.

So, I am truly grateful for all that I am all my hopes, dreams, ambition, looks and personality.

After all, hope is not nagging you or judging you, hope is the voice in the back of your head screaming "Go get 'em".

Celeste Georgiou

**We are living in a world full of people waiting to breathe again.** The dark clouds slowly moving out, a small ray of sun peeking through. The small ray of light that let us see, let us hug our family our friends, let us breathe the fresh clean air of the quiet isolated world. The time no one could forget. The time that made us crawl away and hide. The time where birthdays were celebrated through car doors.

Francesca Emblin

## Dreams

**There are so many fragile things, after all, people break so easily. Yet the peculiarity of most things we think of as fragile is how powerful they truly are.**

Take dreams for example, they are intangible. You can't see them, you can't touch them, you can't prove they are real. Except you can. One person's dream, no matter how big or small can spark a movement or create something innovative, something that changes the earth. The impact that they have made on our earth is the proof that dreams are real. I wouldn't be here if dreams didn't exist. I would not be here, typing on this laptop, sharing my seemingly meaningless thoughts. "Teleportation isn't possible!" You say. But who knows? You can't prove that something is impossible, you can only prove that it is possible.

But how come something so powerful, something that can change lives, be so fragile? Why are some dreams so sturdy while others are flimsy? Why can one dream require only a breath to topple while another can withstand hurricanes and cyclones?

Our world was built by dreams. It is fuelled by dreams; it is expanded by dreams. And the only way we are going to survive these events is to keep dreaming. So why should we stop dreaming?

Gabby Cheung

(A Semi-Fictional 'Take')

**We are tougher than we seem. We are tougher than we think.**

Right now, all I want is for things to go back to normal. I can't believe how dumb I was back at the airport. What was I thinking!?

Anyway, it has been three days now and I'm in a hotel in the middle of Tokyo in lockdown. Sure the food's been great, and there is so much stuff to do, but I was really looking forward to my trip.

A few days ago, as I walked through the bustling streets of Shibuya I saw a statue of a dog. I stayed there for quite a while, I found the whoosh of people quite comforting. An elderly lady came and stood beside me. She started talking about the statue of the dog, Hachiko, I think its name was. She told me how Hachiko used to wait for his owner at the train station every day, but one day he didn't return. His owner, Ueno, had had a heart attack while at work.

But still, every day for nine years Hachiko had kept coming from home to the train station.

The story of Hachiko reminded me to be brave, patient and tough during these Covid19 times.

Emma Chang

**(A Fictional 'Take')**

**We are living in a world of people waiting to breathe again;** it is much like a graveyard full of souls waiting for things to get better, thinking back on times they spent happy, free. People begin to wish they had enjoyed, treasured the dull times in the past because nobody saw such a bland, scary year lying afoot as we said goodbye to 2019. The night of New Year's Eve was a blast but I'm sure nobody wouldn't have seen such a year ahead and nobody would've been celebrating if they knew what was coming.

I knew a person who would have enjoyed this time more than anybody. She loved coldness, death, sickness. She was only five when she left this world and went to a place colder, darker, full of souls waiting. I've only seen her once since and that was on Halloween. Friends of mine took me to the graveyard nearby and I got so scared of all the tombs that I ran off and hid in a bush. I was sitting there for what seemed like forever before a cold hand touched my arm and I screamed. She had come and found me and talked for a while, but I could not hear anything. Then she whispered, "The time will come when you will look back on this moment and wish for the simple life again."

Katharine Conaglen

**We are living a world full of people waiting to breathe again...** to see the world again..... to hear people again.... We don't realize how lucky we are to go to work and school every day and to hug, talk and connect with the people around us. School and work may seem as annoying or useless to our point of view, but it is a way for us humans to interact with each other.

This isolation has changed us as humans and us as a society. We miss seeing people around us we miss our everyday lives I guess we even miss stocked aisles in grocery stores. But this is for the better, as we can now learn and listen to ourselves and choose what is important in life because we will only ever get another one.

Lucinda Cook

**There are so many fragile things, after all, people break so easily** and so do dreams and hearts. **Yet the peculiarity of most things we think of as fragile is how very powerful they truly are.** We all start out with a dream; we all think we will be famous and successful. And some dreams come true, but only if you work every day and hard as you for it. Dreams are not supposed to be easy. People who think they are or know better will tell you to give up, but you cannot. Dreams are not fair; you are not going to get there overnight by lying in bed and thinking someone else will do it for you. The world is built on people who dream far enough to think of an unheard idea.

Lucy McInnes

We are living in a world full of people waiting to breathe again and trying to protect themselves from the deadly virus rapidly traveling around the world.

I really do wish that everyone could just stay home and try keep safe.

Everyone should only leave the house for essentials so that we can protect the elderly, people with medical conditions and anyone who the virus could be deadly towards.

Please stay home.

Matilda Breen

### **Waiting**

**We are living in a world full of people waiting to breathe.** Waiting for their next breath, waiting for something to happen. We are all waiting to be relieved of the dark, gloomy, cloud above us.

But who will save us from what we are too scared or too lazy to do ourselves? The answer is no one but ourselves.

Sarah Beresford