



## **Indiana Writers Center “What Was and Will Be” Prompts for Kids**

**Describe the place where you have been staying during the time of being shut in, then write how you feel about having to stay in that place because of the virus.**

**Think about these things before you begin to write:**

- Are you staying in a house, apartment, or somewhere else?
- How many rooms are in the place? What are they like?
- What is in those rooms?
- What is **not** there for you to see or do?
- Who is staying there with you?
- Describe the sounds and smells in this place.
- What do you see when you look out of the window?
- What feeling have you had the most in this place? Fear? Boredom? Anxiety?
- If you could change something about where you are or who you’re staying with, what would you change?
- What do you want people to know about what it’s like to be in isolation where you are?

**If you could choose where you would be quarantined, what place would you choose? Describe this place using all of your senses.**

**Think about these things before you begin to write:**

- Describe what you see inside this place.
- Who would you choose to be with you in this place? Why would you choose them?
- Who **wouldn’t** be there?
- What would you do in this place that you can’t do where you are now?
- Describe the sounds and smells of this place.
- If there are windows in this place, what do you see when you look out?

- How is this place different from where you are now?

**Write about how the virus and shutdown affected the end of your school year - including sports, concerts and musicals, banquets, social life, academics, other events.**

**Think about these things before you begin to write:**

- Where were you when you heard the news?
- What did you do when you heard the news? What did people around you do?
- How did you feel the first morning you didn't have to get up for school? Do you still feel that way?
- Do you still feel the way you felt about school when the quarantine started? If you feel different, how do you feel now?
- Was anything you missed about school? What and why?

**Describe what it's like to have school online.**

**Think about these things before you begin to write:**

- Where do you do your schoolwork?
- Are others where you are doing schoolwork, too?
- If you have questions about the work you're supposed to do, who answers them?
- Does anyone help you with your schoolwork?
- Do you think doing school online is harder than being in school? If so, why?
- Is it easier? If so, why?
- What is the hardest part about doing school online? What makes it so hard?
- Are things you don't have that might make doing school online easier?
- What kind of relationship do you have with your teacher online? How is it different than the relationship you have when you're in the classroom?

**Write a story a story about a day when something really good happened because you had to stay home instead of being out.**

**Think about these things before you begin to write:**

- Get a picture of what happened in your mind, like a movie. Take time to notice details about it.
- Did someone make it happen? Who? Why? How?
- Did it happen by accident?
- Did it surprise you?
- Did it happen only to you or also to others staying in quarantine with you?
- Did it change the way you feel about staying where you're staying?
- Did anything change because of the good thing that happened?

**Write a story about a day when something really bad happened because you had to stay home instead of being out.**

**Think about these things before you begin to write:**

- Get a picture of what happened in your mind, like a movie. Take time to notice everything about it.
- Did someone make it happen? Who? Why? How?
- Did it happen by accident?
- Did it surprise you?
- Did it happen only to you or also to others staying in quarantine with you?
- Did it change the way you feel about anybody?
- Did it change the way you feel about staying where you're staying?
- Did anything change because of the bad thing that happened?

**Write a story about the hardest loss in your life because of the virus. It might be something you had to miss. It might be losing a loved one.**

**Think about these things before you begin to write:**

- Get a picture in your mind of what you lost. Is it a person, a thing—or maybe something you didn't get to do because of the virus. Take the time to notice everything about it.
- If it's a person, think about what you loved about them and what you will miss most. How will your life be different now that they are gone?
- If it's an object, why did it matter so much to you? How was it important in your life? What will you miss about not having it?
- If it's an event you had to miss because of the virus, why was it important to you? What would it have been like if you had been able to do it? Where would it have been? What would you have worn? Who would have been with you? (You can make your writing about what you imagine if you want to.)
- Are there smells, sounds, or tastes that come to your mind when you think about your loss? What are they?
- What memories do you have about the person or thing you lost?
- What did you do when you found out about the loss?
- Were others affected by this loss, too? How did they react to it?
- Did others know how you felt? If so, how did they try to comfort or help you?
- Do you have any guilt or regret about what you lost? If so, why?

**Describe the very first thing you plan to do when the quarantine is over and you don't have to worry about the virus anymore.**

**Think about these things before you begin to write:**

- Get a picture in your mind of yourself doing this thing.
- Why did you choose this as the first thing you want to do?
- Where will it happen? What are the details of that place?
- Who will be with you?
- What will be doing?

- What will you see, smell, touch, hear, feel doing this?

**Since you asked, what I *really* want to write about today is\_\_\_\_\_ . Write about that.**

**Think about these things before you begin to write:**

- Close your eyes and get a picture of what want to write about in your mind. Take time to notice everything about it.
- Then write down your story as fast as you can. Don't worry about anything. Just write.
- When you finish writing, close your eyes and look the scene in your mind again. In your imagination, look at what's in front of you, then look to one side, the other, up, down, and behind you. Write down any details you remembered.
- Look at your writing to see where you can add some things to make the picture you made with words even stronger.

