

ENGLISH 9-12 Extended Learning Activities

Week 4: April 20-24

Detailed Directions: Over the course of these next few weeks, your teachers want to keep you engaged with literature and communicating your ideas. Each week you will see a variety of both reading and writing assignments to engage with to keep up on your skills. These activities will take approximately 2 hours to complete for the week. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your teacher through email. Teacher email addresses: first.last@bpsne.net or can be found on the district website at www.bellevuepublicschools.org.

Tips for accessing this document or links in these plans:

- Option 1: To make a copy of a Google doc and edit it, make sure you are signed in to your BPS account. Then you can click on **File-Make a Copy**. This will make it easier to work with the documents.
 - Email formatting: studentfirstnamelastname.student##@bpsne.net (The student's graduation year follows "student")
 - Password: BPS##### (The number signs are the individual's student (or lunch) number)
- Option 2: Download the Google doc or PDF to your device and work with it in the program of your choice or print the document.

Week 4:

1. Each day read a book (given by your teacher or any book of your choice) Read the text for 20 mins
2. Complete [Surprise. Surprise](#) Reading Strategy Sheet found on page 2 of this packet. You may print the page or recreate the graphic organizer on paper.
3. Read the article of the week titled ["Why Tough Times Can Create Better Neighbors"](#) and complete the writing assignment at the bottom. (There is a 2nd version of the article and writing assignment found on pages 5-6 that is an adapted text level.)
4. **If you want, share the writing assignment document with your teacher via Google Docs, email or Schoology if you have access.**

Title of Book or Article: _____

Directions: As you read, look for things that surprise you. When you find something, ask yourself these questions: 1. Why did this surprise me? 2. What does this suggest?

Strategy: Surprise, Surprise

Something I found interesting or surprising.	Pg. #	Why does this surprise me?	What does this suggest??

“Why Tough Times Can Create Better Neighbors” (Advanced Reading Level)

By Christian Science Monitor, adapted by Newsela staff

03.19.20

Staying more than 6 feet apart, the neighbors waved to each other and joined in singing the Beatles song "Let it Be." One of the residents, a professional cellist, played for a sing-along of "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers.

"Everyone appreciated the activity, which brought much-needed levity and connection," resident Minda Sanchez said via email.

The activity not only brought community members to their feet to dance in the sun, it brought many to tears.

Similar scenes are playing out in neighborhoods across the world quarantined because of COVID19, (short for coronavirus disease 2019). The coronavirus is a flu-like illness that began in China and has been spreading across the globe since December 2019.

In Wuhan, China, whole blocks of apartment buildings chanted, "Keep up the fight." In Rome and in Siena, Italians on lockdown lean out of windows and balconies with tambourines and accordions to sing songs. On March 14, citizens throughout Spain began clapping in unison to cheer health care workers.

Reaching Out To Strangers

As the practice of "social distancing" burgeons, people are finding ways to meet even though they can't meet face-to-face. Social distancing is the practice of keeping away from crowds and public places to slow down the spread of a disease.

Instead, people are using video calling and social network connections. However, people aren't just staying in touch with friends and family. The global crisis has roused a sense of shared humanity that's causing people to reach out to their communities. Amid the outbreak of COVID19, there's a surge of kindness among strangers.

"In times of great stress, helping others is a powerful way to reassert control in a moment where many of us feel helpless," said Jamil Zaki, author of "The War for Kindness: Building Empathy in a Fractured World." "Kindness toward others actually can be a great source of healing."

One of the ways that millions of people are being kind to others right now is by practicing social distancing. For many, the motivation is that they want to protect others. There are models for that impulse, said Jill Suttie, a psychologist at the Greater Good Science Center at the University of California, Berkeley. A study demonstrated the most effective way for hospitals to motivate health care professionals to wash their hands isn't by noting the importance of safeguarding oneself from disease. It's stressing the impact it has on protecting patients.

To be sure, not everyone is acting kindly at the moment. Fights have broken out in supermarkets as people wrestle for the last remaining item on a shelf. Some are hoarding hand sanitizer, face masks, and toilet paper. Many ignored pleas to practice social distancing, gathering at restaurants. In response, governors in several states, including Massachusetts and Ohio, shut down restaurants except for delivery and takeout.

Kindness Can Go Viral, Too

Even so, instances of selflessness have become increasingly common. Professional basketball players such as Giannis Antetokounmpo and Zion Williamson have donated

money to cover the salaries of arena workers affected by the suspension of the season. Other acts of kindness include providing food for children who are out of school.

Witnessing acts of kindness inspires others, said Zaki, a psychologist at Stanford University in California. In 2016, he published an article in *Scientific American*, "Kindness Contagion," that included findings of studies about how people "catch" cooperation and generosity from others. This desire to help others intensifies during times of crisis and crosses lanes of class, race and other divisions.

For example, when Germans began retreating behind closed doors earlier in March, Molly Wilson realized she didn't know the elderly people in her Berlin neighborhood. Wilson, an American who moved to Germany in 2016, teamed up with a neighbor to post flyers on mailboxes and trash cans on their street. Their notes offered to go shopping on behalf of those who felt unable to go outside.

"My husband and I are both on parental leave, so one of us can absolutely go and get some noodles and beans for somebody who lives a couple streets over," said Wilson. She also posted her note on Twitter to inspire others. "We need to do something off-line in order to let old people know that it's OK to reach out for help."

When in-person activity is limited, technology can temporarily mend rips in the social fabric. Good Samaritans are using social media platforms to post offers to help strangers. For example, Jerry Xu, a tech professional in San Francisco, California, used the app NextDoor to volunteer his services. NextDoor connects members to others in their area.

Beyond Offering A Cup Of Sugar

To Marc Dunkelman, author of "The Vanishing Neighbor," these responses to the coronavirus crisis are notable in their contrast to normal times. Most people's acquaintances resemble a model like the rings of Saturn, with the innermost bands representing the closest connections and each successive loop becoming more distant. Over the past 50 years, people have invested more time on the innermost ring of friends and family. People have also invested more time in the outermost rings. Those include online acquaintances they don't know personally but with whom they share interests such as sports, hobbies or politics.

People have largely abandoned rings in the middle, said Dunkelman. Those are the rings of contacts including neighbors and groups such as bowling leagues or Boy Scouts. Yet the coronavirus offers the opportunity for greater local connection.

"Could it be that in the context of this crisis, people do break through that initial barrier and say to one another, even though they're not supposed to be accosting one another or having real intimacy, 'Hello. You know, I live in apartment 2B. You must live above me?'" said Dunkelman.

The crisis will alter the way we connect socially. Even if it is online, what matters most is how we interact with others, said Suttie.

She recommends "trying to calm each other to the extent that we can and not raise panic because that helps all of us to be a bit calmer."

“Why Tough Times Can Create Better Neighbors” (Intermediate Reading Level)

By Christian Science Monitor, adapted by Newsela staff

03.19.20

The coronavirus has changed everyday life. For many people, it limits the contact they have with others. Still, they have found ways to reach out.

The coronavirus is a flu-like illness. It began in China and has been spreading across the globe since December 2019.

In a neighborhood in Boston, Massachusetts, people came from their apartments for a flash mob on March 14. The neighbors waved to each other and joined in singing the Beatles song "Let it Be." One resident, a professional musician, played for a sing-along of another song. During their show, they stayed more than 6 feet apart because of the virus. The activity not only brought community members to their feet to dance, it brought many to tears.

Similar scenes are playing out in neighborhoods around the world quarantined because of coronavirus. In Wuhan, China, blocks of apartment buildings chanted, "Keep up the fight." In Italy, people on lockdown lean out of windows and balconies to sing. On March 14, people in Spain began clapping together to cheer health care workers.

Reaching Out To Strangers

As the practice of "social distancing" burgeons, people are finding ways to meet even though they can't meet face-to-face. Social distancing is the practice of keeping away from crowds and public places to slow down the spread of a disease. They're using video calling and social network connections. However, people aren't just staying in touch with friends and family. The global problem is causing people to reach out to their communities. In the middle of the outbreak, there is kindness among strangers.

"In times of great stress, helping others is a powerful way to reassert control in a moment where many of us feel helpless," said Jamil Zaki. He wrote the book, "The War for Kindness: Building Empathy in a Fractured World." "Kindness toward others actually can be a great source of healing."

One of the ways that millions of people are being kind to others is by staying away. They are practicing social distancing. For many, the motivation is that they want to protect others.

There are examples for that impulse, said Jill Suttie. She is a scientist at the Greater Good Science Center at the University of California, Berkeley. A study demonstrated an effective way for hospitals to motivate health care workers to wash their hands. It isn't by talking about protecting themselves from disease. It's stressing how it protects patients.

To be sure, not everyone is acting kindly. Fights have broken out in supermarkets over the last remaining item on a shelf. Some are hoarding hand sanitizer, face masks and toilet

paper. Many ignored requests to practice social distancing, gathering at restaurants. So governors in several states shut down restaurants except for delivery and takeout.

Kindness Can Go Viral, Too

Even so, acts of kindness have become common. Professional basketball players have donated money to pay arena workers affected by canceled games. Other acts of kindness include providing food for children who are out of school.

Seeing acts of kindness inspires others, said Zaki. He is a scientist at Stanford University in California. In 2016, he printed an article in Scientific American called "Kindness Contagion." It included findings of studies about how people "catch" generosity from others. This desire to help others grows during times of trouble. It crosses lanes of class, race and other divisions.

In Germany, people began staying inside earlier in March. Molly Wilson realized she didn't know the elderly people in her Berlin neighborhood. Wilson and a neighbor posted flyers on mailboxes and trash cans on their street. Their notes offered help with shopping for those who felt unable to go outside.

When in-person activity is limited, technology can help. People are using social media platforms to post offers to help strangers. For example, Jerry Xu, a technology worker in San Francisco, California, used the app NextDoor to volunteer his services. NextDoor connects members to others in their area.

Beyond Offering A Cup Of Sugar

Marc Dunkelman wrote the book "The Vanishing Neighbor." To him, these responses to the coronavirus contrast with normal times. Over the past 50 years, people have lost connections with neighbors, said Dunkelman. Now the coronavirus offers the opportunity for greater local connection.

Writing Assignment: This article looks at some of the positive impacts of a shared experience. Brainstorm a list (at least 10) ways that you could help make a positive impact on your neighborhood or within your community, or even just your family during these tough times. Remember that not all impacts need to be major, they can be as simple as saying positive messages to people.