

Some Fun Things to Do During Quarantine Before School Starts Back Up Again

By: Lauren Bellamy

Believe it or not, summer is dwindling down to a close. Most of our writers are going to be starting college in just a couple days, but there's shockingly some things that we still haven't done during our five month quarantine. Whether it's from binging a show to finding a new talent, hopefully this piece helps you figure out what else there is to do during the next couple weeks or days before you have to get back to the books.

1. Venture into a new genre (Television Genre)

During quarantine, I have binged many, MANY shows (probably at least a dozen). Have they all been American shows? No. Have they all been international shows? No. Have they been shows that I just needed to catch up? Ha, no. But I think what has gotten me through this whole process has been trying new things. I've gotten into *anime*, which has been a fun journey as to know all the different bits and pieces that go into the Japanese animated phenomenon (dub versus sub; romantic anime versus slice of life versus action. SO MANY THINGS). It's definitely been a fun adventure down the rabbit hole. I've also binged *Elite*, a show that takes place in Spain, and it has been one of the best decisions I have ever made in reference to picking a show to watch. Korean dramas have also been my best friend during quarantine (early in August, I binged two dramas back to back with only an hour break in between). Early during quarantine, I fell in love with *On My Block* as well as the *90 Day Fiance* franchise, and thank God that *90 Day* has had so many spinoffs, it has really made quarantine so much better. Here's a list of some more shows that I watched (some not necessarily during quarantine, but still good binges), and think that you should too.

PLL: The Perfectionists - Hulu

Never Have I Ever - Netflix

Family Matters - Hulu

Once Upon a Time - Netflix

Quantico - Netflix

Glee (Rest in Peace, Naya) - Netflix

Family Reunion - Netflix

High School Musical: The Musical: The Series - Disney+

Self-Made - Netflix

Love is Blind - Netflix

Dear White People - Netflix

You - Netflix

Avatar: The Last Airbender - Netflix

The Legend of Korra - Netflix

2. Can I get active without having to do full on cardio workouts?

Of course you can, sis. I myself have told myself at least fifty thousand times that I need to get myself up and do some exercise, but I also don't want to be aching for days afterward. So, how can I exercise in a fun way that I wouldn't mind sweating a little bit and actually show some progress in my "getting fit" journey. Why not try learning the choreography for your favorite bops? I have spent a couple days learning the choreography to some of my favorite girl groups, and am actually proud of my progress. Whether it's learning the first part of the chorus choreo from "Make You Happy" by Niziu or "Feel Special" by TWICE. I've even tried learning some of the dances from Queen Bey's *HOMECOMING*. It's a hard but cool way to be able to exercise. You should try it, or try learning a Tik Tok dance to start off.

3. Time to Bake

Now this activity is really entertaining. While you may make a mess or have to attempt to make your cookies or brownies a couple times to make sure the consistency is good, making a delicious treat could bring a smile to your face. I actually made some butter cookies a little while ago and while the process was long, the finished product was worth it. Try looking up a good recipe to make, and get to baking. Good luck!

4. Did you realize that reading is the best way to cure your quarantine blues?

Looking back on my goodreads account, I have read ten novels throughout the duration of quarantine. Considering it's been five months since the start of lockdown, that's about two

books per month, even though there were pauses in between that time period. All of the novels I read were from different genres and had different intentions, but all were extremely interesting and entertaining. Most I finished in a couple or a few days. Reading is a good way to pass the time as well as learn some vocabulary that you may not have known. Reading can also give you more insight on the present time, and learn more about cultures that you didn't know about before. If you need some ideas of where to start, check out some of these titles...

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

Dear Martin by Nic Stone

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli

Leah on the Offbeat by Becky Albertalli

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Words on Bathroom Walls by Julia Walton

Red, White and Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon

Without Merit by Colleen Hoover

How to Hang a Witch by Adriana Mather

Haunting the Deep by Adriana Mather

Alex and Eliza by Melissa De La Cruz

Perfect Chemistry by Simone Elkeles

Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo

Crooked Kingdom by Leigh Bardugo

Party of Two by Jasmine Guillory

Well, that's all I got. Hopefully in whatever time period you may have before school starts, you can try to do some of these ideas and enjoy them as much as I did.

