

CORONAVIRUS MUTATIONS
VERSUS VACCINES/

CORONAVIRUSES ARE
BREAKING INTO THE BODY.
THE VACCINES ARE WORK-
ING HARD AND SWEATING.
SOME CORONAVIRUS ARE
PASSING THROUGH. PEOPLE
SHOULD MAKE MORE VAC-
CINES.

—NATHAN KITANI
6, LOS ANGELES

6'

OF SEPARATION

The Advice Issue

MAY 2021
ISSUE 10

Letter From The Editor

Like bears, turtles, woodchucks, snakes, bumblebees and the common poorwill, pandemic newspapers occasionally hibernate. Six Feet of Separation has been curled up in a warm log, snoring loudly, scratching its ear occasionally. Enough of that! We're back, ready for spring, and summer, and whatever other seasons they come up with!

A while ago, we invited our brilliant contributors to make a special issue, all about ADVICE. It's been more than a year since the pandemic began. School is drawing to a

close. We have a newish president, and newish vaccines, and newish thoughts and feelings about all this stuff. Things are changing! Seemed like a fine opportunity to share some of the wisdom we've all been gathering.

Holy smokes did a lot of wisdom get gathered.

How to take a lunch break. How to be a bold jumping spider. How to be happy. How to mourn. How to entertain yourself during a pandemic. Whether or not to rap more about bears. Six Feet's contributors are overflow-



ing with thoughtful, helpful, delightful and all-around excellent advice. We hope you enjoy it.

We also hope you'll write or draw (or both!) for our next issue! We'd love to hear what you're up to, what you're thinking about, what's been happy for you lately, what's been hard for you lately. We'd love for you to interview someone in your life, or draw something that's special to you. We'd love to hear where your brain goes when you're falling asleep, or what your city might look like in a hundred years, or who has

inspired you lately. Or: anything else!

Thank you for reading. Thank you for contributing. Thank you for your patience during our hibernation. And thank you to Beth Holzer for designing this paper — our advice to her is to keep being awesome.

Chris Colin
Editor
Six Feet of Separation

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Fun Ways to Entertain Yourself During a Pandemic

WHY PANDEMICS CAN BE TOUGH

One way Covid-19 quarantining is tough is you cannot see your friends as much, or hug or interact in any way. It can be tough staying away from people and missing out on field trips, play dates and trips to the park. When you can't see anyone it gets boring.

DID YOU KNOW THAT A PANDEMIC CAN BE FUN—BUT ONLY IF YOU CHOOSE TO MAKE IT FUN?

Being in quarantine can be hard, but you can make it fun. You could just sit around being glum or you could bake something like cake or cookies. You could also make a game of your own. For example, you can create a new way to play Sorry or make a new game! You can also read books like Harry Potter or Percy Jackson. We recommend that you go outside to enjoy birds or something else like deer. If you are inside, try to make a puppet show. You can

also get really crafty.

WHAT MOST PEOPLE ARE DOING

During the pandemic a lot of people have been buying Nintendo Switches. Also, a lot of people have been hiking and baking homemade bread. Workout gyms are now also closed, so now people are buying a lot of at-home equipment. And as a family, a lot of people have been doing puzzles and just spending time with each other. People have also been getting a lot of pets. And in addition to all of that, a lot of people are moving to quiet and calm places with less people, because they do not want to get Covid.

HOW TO FIND NEW WAYS TO BE CREATIVE

You can play anything on the Switch or the 3DS. You can even play on the Xbox One. You can also play games

like Uno, Dominos, the Floor Is Lava and any type of game you want. You can easily play while you go shopping.














Just ask around your house and make sure to stay socially distanced from people outside of your bubble! You never know who will want to play with you! Everybody wants to play games so just ask around. You could watch videos or watch movies. If you need someone to play with, you can play with your pets!

I like to do sports on my own during quarantine. It helps build my physical strength. Reading builds my mind like a muscle. Sleep energizes me. Meditation helps cool me down. Socially distanced outdoor play dates help build social activity. Writing helps get me some hand exercises. Math widens my vision of seeing things.

Eating helps me stay energized throughout the day. Taking my mind off bad things helps me calm down. Music helps me be motivated in a world of silence or activeness.

Running burns calories.

Do you need some more fun things to do? Well here are some options!

-  HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR FRIENDS IN A WHILE? CALL THEM!
-  DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FINGER KNIT? YOU NEED YARN.
-  GO OUTSIDE!
-  DO YOU LIKE ANYTHING? DO WHAT YOU LIKE!
-  MAKE A PUPPET SHOW.
-  YOU HAVE SOME PUZZLES? DO IT!
-  CREATE YOUR OWN JEWELRY.
-  BUILD A LEGO SET.
-  PAINT AN ABSTRACT PAINTING.
-  IF YOU HAVE A PET GIVE THEM LOVE.
-  PLAY A CARD GAME.
-  REARRANGE YOUR ROOM.
-  START A JOURNAL!

I hope you like all these fun things to do! Hope you have fun! Do try one of these if you want.

HOW TO CELEBRATE DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

On Halloween, you can't walk up to someone and get candy so you can make a candy chute and make the candy slide into someone's hands. On Thanksgiving, you can't go to someone's house so you could make a feast hunt where the final destination has a meal somewhere. On the Fourth of July everybody can only go near their own car to be socially distanced. On Christmas in your house you can have a party. You can make a picture of a Christmas tree and create presents. For Mother's Day, you can make Haikus.

ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE LIFE MORE FUN!

Use your imagination to make things you are really into. Create new games, make up your own rules and ways to win using past games you have played. If you are stuck indoors you can use furniture and blankets and balls to create new games.

Try moving in slow motion, it will summon laughter.

Make mistakes. The worst thing that can happen is you find your limit. Memorize the periodic tables...you never know what you can do with those letters. Color that ought to bring back old times.

Rap practice for a battle.

PLANT A TREE AND WATCH IT GROW!

We all know that the pandemic can be a hard time for us, but, there are still fun activities for us to do. This article

will teach you another fun thing to do during COVID-19: Plant a tree! Grab a pack of seeds, take one out and put it into a dirt hole. Next, cover the hole with more dirt. Then, water it gently so it won't flood. Keep in mind that seeds can drown too. Water it every day till you see sprouts. This means you are doing a good job watering it every day! Keep it up.

KEEP YOUR CHIN UP!

Love,

Ms. Emily's 3rd Grade
New School Rockstars!

WRITTEN COLLABORATIVELY BY MS. EMILY'S 3RD GRADE CLASS NEW SCHOOL OF SAN FRANCISCO

How to Be Happy

CRYSTAL LI
15, SAN DIEGO, CA

WORK HARD.

catch up on knowledge
your peers master flaw-
lessly. should the curl-
ing fingers of laziness
ever pull you in, resist
the urge to comply. look
out your window, what
do you see? dream about
the limits of the out-
side world. sit close to
the window and feel the
sunshine. sit close to
the window and feel the
impossible possibilities.
put your hands against
the glass. pretend your
soul isn't sinking into a
rabbit hole. breathe in
and breathe out. con-
vince yourself it will
soon be over.

ON THE 100TH DAY,

you must still not

give up. think posi-
tive thoughts. what
else is going on in the
world besides the obvi-
ous? do not overthink.
panic attacks are over-
rated. jump on your bed
and cover yourself with
weighted blankets. per-
haps underneath all
that warmth is a taste
of angel dust, a heav-
enly shard. drown out
the unnecessary sounds.
reflect on the noth-
ings you've done all
day. tomorrow you will
repeat your actions, for-
ever stuck like a spi-
der in the golden hue of
amber.

ON THE 200TH DAY,

arrive at the door of
lunacy. don't worry, no
one will judge you. we



all are bound by invisible
strings of despair as the
world burns endlessly.
put on those uniform
pajamas in santorini
blue. feel like a pris-
oner as you dance with
cold feet and cold hands.
swallow lullaby pills and
get tangled with the
beeping heart moni-
tor to your feet like an
ol' ball and chain. golden
apricot nectar soap has
never smelled so sweet.
drink up, your throat
cries. one sip every ten
minutes. one cup every
hour. and there! creep-
ing realization. caring for
yourself isn't so hard.

ON THE 1000TH DAY,

screw it, I've lost count.
you're sick of staying
inside. the saint you pre-

tended to be months
ago was gone as net-
flix strains your eyes,
late bedtimes turned out
to be anticlimactic, and
those lavender sheets
lost their warmth.
should the curling fin-
gers of laziness ever pull
you in, it is okay to give
in once in a blue moon.
perhaps a few more
times. as you lay empty
upon the stained carpet
of your heavy steps and
look up at the caged sky,
there are no more stars.

sit close to the window
and search for sunlight.

sit close to the window
and observe the flames
over our home.

you will be happy with
yourself.

ADVICE TO MY
PREPANDEMIC SELF

Dear Jason of December 2019,

JASON C.
13, CUPERTINO, CA

YOU'RE NOT GOING to believe me, but please listen. In January, you will hear the word “coronavirus” for the first time. It will seem like something far away and unimportant to your life. In February, you will have a fantastic month. But then in March, the coronavirus will perme-

ate the U.S., and life will change for everyone. Within a couple weeks, schools will close, and you will be exhilarated. But don't celebrate.

At first, it's delightful. You can complete all your work from home. You can sleep late because school won't start until 9am. You

seem to have an easy life.

But you will even miss the things that you complain about now, like your grumpy P.E. teacher. You will really miss playing sports with your friends. I know it sounds ludicrous to wish for summer to end, but by August, you will want to see your friends so much that you will be eager to go back to school. Mark my words.

Wearing masks seems weird to you, right? Well not in 2020. If you are near anyone, you need to wear a mask to protect yourself. Enjoy breathing fresh air for now, care-free Jason.

Enjoy laughing with your classmates, eating out at Mod Pizza, and basically just being normal around people. Enjoy

ENJOY
THINKING
THAT ZOOM
MEANS
“ZOOMING
IN AND
OUT” WHEN
YOU’RE
TAKING A
PHOTO.

playing sports at brunch and lunch, and cherish your time on the volleyball team. Enjoy talking to people in person, and not having to use online calls. Enjoy thinking that Zoom means “zooming in and out” when you’re taking a photo.

Currently, we hope things will end soon and we can get vaccinated, so that we can see each other again and stop being afraid. In the meantime, I am grateful for the brilliant scientists who are diligently working on the project we depend on to return to normal.

Optimistically,
Jason of December 2020

P.S. JASON OF DECEMBER
2021 HAS WRITTEN TO ME
AND SAYS 2021 WILL BE A
PHENOMENAL YEAR!

Get Vaccinated!

I WANT TO jump for joy over the vaccine, but not everyone wants it. I am going to try to convince those people why they **SHOULD** get the vaccine and why waiting might not be the best idea.

In my mind, there are two types of people who don't want the vaccine: anti-vaxxers and people who want to wait and let others be the guinea pigs. I'm going to address the more radical group, the anti-vaxxers.

All their "arguments" against vaccines are just conspiracy theories. No, the flu shot does not give you ADHD and no, the government is not putting a tracking device in your arm. It couldn't be small enough to go through a needle. Also I don't think our government is put-together enough that it could.

Also, I get that the flu shot is not the most accurate of

things but it **DOES** help. I get my flu shot every year. I do not have ADHD and I have only ever gotten the flu once from it. Seeing that the Covid vaccine is about 95% accurate (depending on the company producing it), it's a no-brainer. If that doesn't convince you, maybe you should look into what Covid can do to you.

OK, second group of people, ahem, **WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?** The vaccine has already been tested on millions of people — people have already been guinea pigs. I think you simply don't like getting shots. So remember folks, get your shots.

MADDY
12, BERKELEY, CA

Stop Polluting The Ocean!

POLLUTING IS DESTROYING our ocean and we're going to tell you why.

Polluting is harming the plants and animals in the oceans around the world. The pollution is coming from human beings. Humans are using plastic, and then throwing it in the ocean. Ninety percent of the trash in the ocean is plastic.

Because of the immense amount of trash in the ocean, a lot of animals are getting trapped and are dying. Sea Turtles get trapped in six-pack plastic rings. When sea turtles are born, sometimes plastic is blocking their path to the ocean.

Nearly every seabird on earth is eating plastic from the shore. A National Geographic article states that "Plastic found inside birds includes bags, bottle caps,

synthetic fibers from clothing, and tiny rice-sized bits that have been broken down by the sun and waves."

MICROPLASTICS

Microplastics can be eaten by fish, and those fish can be eaten by humans. Microplastics are the teeny bits that have broken down from bigger pieces of plastic. Humans could get sick from eating microplastics that fish have eaten from the plastic we dump in the sea.

If we use less plastic, we can save a lot of animals and possibly ourselves.

LUCAS, LIAM, LEO, ELIAS,
WILL, SARPER, SYAH, CHYNA,
ABNER, JACK, ESMERALDA AND
HUDSON OF THE NEW SCHOOL OF
SAN FRANCISCO, COHORT 3A

Make a Tailgate Party at Home!

LUCIA S.
11, PENNSYLVANIA, PA



Tailgate parties are very fun and exciting. My hometown is huge on tailgate parties, it is a big tradition. But, since we are social distancing, we are unable to do that safely. So, here are some fun recipes and ways to have your own tailgate party at home:

TEAM SPIRIT BALLOONS!

SUPPLIES

Clear/See-through balloons
Construction Paper
Glitter (optional)
String

GET STARTED

1. Cut out stars, circles and other shapes out of your team's colored paper.
2. Put in deflated balloon along with glitter, if you are using it.
3. Blow up balloon and tie with your team's colored strings. It's a great way to show team spirit!

TOOTHPICK FLAGS!

SUPPLIES

Toothpicks
Construction Paper
Glue or tape
Marker(s)

GET STARTED

1. Cut right triangles out of paper. Draw team's logo on the triangle.
2. Get a toothpick and put triangle against it. Attach them together. Have fun!

NACHOS!

INGREDIENTS

Tortilla Chips
Cheddar Cheese

GET STARTED

1. Place tortilla chips in a baking/casserole/cake pan. Put in the oven on 350° for 10 or so minutes.
2. While chips are in the oven, put your cheese in a saucepan on medium-high heat. Stir occasionally and once cheese has melted completely (no chunks left), move the saucepan to a cool burner.
3. Remove chips from the oven and put onto a platter. Pour cheese over chips. Add sour cream, salsa, shredded cheese or whatever else you would like on it. Enjoy!

MINI PIZZAS!

INGREDIENTS

Flat Tortillas
(However many you want)
Pizza Sauce
Shredded Cheese

GET STARTED

1. Take tortillas and use spoon to spread sauce on it. Leave a ½ inch or so crust. Sprinkle cheese (and any other toppings) on the sauce-covered part. Put in oven for 10-15 minutes on 350°, or until crust is golden brown.
2. Take out of oven and let cool for 5 minutes. Enjoy!



Pandemic Advice: Take a Lunch Break (Or, How to Make a Killer Sandwich)

CAM FOWLER, 16
CORNELIUS, NC



ONE OF MY best lessons of the pandemic was learning to put aside time to eat a real lunch. Before the pandemic, the only meal I consistently ate was dinner — I skipped breakfast and my lunches were always small.

Once school went online last March, it became clear after sitting and staring at a computer for four hours straight, I needed a legit break to refuel before cranking on more homework online. Now, I understand thousands of adults and students alike struggle with

countless hours of sitting and working on work/school as well, so I know I'm not alone in the need to stretch the legs and the brain midday. Enter the ultimate win-win: learning to make excellent grilled ham and cheese sandwiches for pandemic lunch.

JUMPING RIGHT IN!

First, ingredients. You need:

2 slices of classic American cheese

2 slices of “butter bread”

A few solid slices of deli ham

1-2 tablespoons butter

Next: Prepare to make your sandwich. Assembly matters. The slices of cheese must touch the bread, to get close to the heat. So bread, cheese, meat, repeat. Then, cut a generous pat of butter. After that, cut that piece of butter in half. It is the ratio of one pat of butter per side of the sandwich to make sure both sides of your sandwich get plenty of evenly distributed butter.

You're on the last steps! Kids: Get permission from your parents or have them supervise this step. Grab a cast iron skillet, and set one of the burners on your stove to medium high. Place each bread/cheese/meat stack butter side down in the skillet. This is a key step -- the butter will melt on each side of the sandwich evenly. No dry sandwiches allowed. You can cook the sandwich open-faced if you have a

big enough skillet.

Grab a spatula and check the under the sandwich — let it warm up until the bread turns a nice golden brown. If making it open-face, once the bread is golden, flip one side on top of the other. If you prefer to keep your sandwich stacked, once one side is golden brown, flip the sandwich and do the same for the other side. Once the bread is perfectly brown and the cheese is all melty, **MAKE SURE TO TURN OFF THE STOVE** and plate up that sandwich. Congrats: You made lunch!

With a tall glass of chocolate milk and an apple on the side, this is a perfect lunch. Major bonus: Your eyes got a screen break and your brain got the chance to relax for a bit. Now you just need to sit down, eat and take a peek at Tik Tok or YouTube or your favorite social app. Homework can wait.

Story: Jimmy the Resident Advisor

SOPHIE FREEDMAN
10, ARDMORE, PA

ONCE UPON A time, there was a boy named Jimmy. Jimmy was the resident advisor in his town, so (as you probably know by now) he was in charge of helping everyone in town with their problems and giving them consultation on how to fix them.

There was just one problem. Jimmy gave the worst advice in the world. When someone couldn't get their cart-wheel just right, he said: "Just give up." To another townsperson who just never had time to see their kids because they were at work all the time, his input was: "Quit your job! That way you can see your kids more often! I'm sure you have enough money in your bank account by now to be able to pay off your bills and taxes!"

It just kept on going like that until he had spoken to every citizen in his hometown. But he didn't realize that, even though the people smiled and nodded at his suggestions, they all frowned after he left and said to themselves: "That was some terrible advice."

Thankfully, the mayor of the town saw all of this. Since he had appointed Jimmy as resident advisor, he made a trip to Jimmy's house. "Try a different approach to your advice," he told Jimmy. "A more positive approach."

The next day Jimmy tried to give his advice again to the citizens, just like always...except this time he encouraged them instead of making them feel badly about themselves. To

the bad-cart-wheel one he said,
“Keep on trying! It’ll make you feel better if you know you tried your best at it. You’ll also become more confident. And the more confident you are in yourself, the better you’ll be!”

To the one who had no time to see their kids, he said, “Alongside your job, I’m assuming that you have errands to run, right?”

The townspeople nodded.

“Well, if you have a partner you can ask them to run some of the errands! If you don’t have one, or they’re at work all day, hire a nanny to do some errands! You won’t have errands to run, and you can see your kids!”

And he gave his improved input to everyone in the town, and they all lived happily ever after.

Rap More About Bears

BEN TOWNSEND
11, CHICO, CA

B-B-Bears

Bears in the airs

Bears in your hairs

Because the bears don’t cares

B-B-Bears

Drinkin’ honey

While us foolish humans worry
about money

They rub their backs against trees

Are friends with the bees

They enjoy the breeze

They say no to peas!

They are happy with their lives

Their wives

Beehives

They look alive!

They have cool names like Clive

And they strive,

And thrive

And they go into a straight nose
dive,

They scheme and connive

They can live up to twenty five!

That is all I got to say ‘bout Bears



Answer These Questions

Advice Strictly For Harry
Styles And Saoirse Ronan
(Because We Can't Seem
To Get In Touch With You)

KEIRA, 12
HONG KONG

Which one of your two solo albums do you prefer and why?

Have you been inspired to write any new songs during this pandemic?

Has the pandemic affected your social life a lot?

What was your biggest inspiration while writing Harry Styles (HS1)?

What's your favorite podcast (if any)?

If you could say anything to kids who want to become music artists what would you say?

What quarantine activities would you recommend (to cure boredom)?

What have you been doing during this pandemic/ lockdown?

Out of all the movies you've starred in, which one's your favorite?

Would you ever give up acting for something else? And if so, what?

Would you ever run for president?

What advice would you give to younger kids who want to pursue their dreams?

When the pandemic passes, what are you looking forward to doing the most?

From the cast of Little Women, which co-star have you stayed in contact with the most?

Which existing movie would you have liked to star in (if you had had the chance to)?



HARRY STYLES



SAOIRSE RONAN



BOTH

Watch the Dream smp Next Time You're in a Pandemic

LAST NOVEMBER, I stumbled across Dream SMP, a survivor multi-player Minecraft server, where about 30 streamers from around the world act out dramatic plots. They create countries, form alliances, betray each other and stage wars. You can watch the streams live on Twitch, or later on YouTube.

In survival Minecraft, you have to collect tools and resources to stay in the game. The more resources you have, the more power you have

over other players. For example, there's a rare item called a "totem of undying." If you're holding the totem of undying, you can't get killed if you fall off a building or someone tries to assassinate you. If you have enough totems of undying in Minecraft, you can live forever, but in Dream SMP there are only 27.

Dream SMP has been a great distraction during the pandemic because life in quarantine is so boring. It's the same exact thing every day: school, homework,

chores. Repeat, repeat, repeat. So it's great to have a break.

When they're live streaming, the players are very funny, although they cuss a lot. At the Dream Team fandom website, you can read about the plots and characters. In fact, I read the wiki instead of books —the plots are as good, if not better, than any novel.

My favorite plot so far was the war between the Manberg and L'Manberg factions. The two groups staged an election to see who should rule L'Manberg (the territory controlled by the L'Manberg group) and the Manberg group won because one of the streamers was asleep and didn't vote. The Manberg faction then renamed the L'Manberg territory "Manberg" and exiled the former leaders -- who started another territory which they called "Pogtopia" to win L'Manberg back. Then Pogtopia and Manberg fought and Pog-

topia won and changed the name of the territory back to "L'Manberg." But two L'Manberg members betrayed the group and blew the city up. This all seems very confusing, I know, which is why there are over a thousand pages explaining the various plots in the DreamTeamFandom wiki.

Dream SMP has been a great distraction during the pandemic. When everything shut down, I didn't even want to leave my house because I didn't feel safe. It's scary that over half a million Americans have died from Covid. I really wish there were totems of undying in real life.

DAVIA ROSE SCHEERES
11, ALBANY, CA

Tricks to Shake-Up Your Quarantine Wardrobe

DELILAH KADEN
15, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

IT CAN BE hard to shop these days, but that doesn't have to stop all the fun! Even if you don't know how to sew, there are plenty of ways to play around with your style. Why not spend some time on a fun project? Bonus: Upcycling your old clothes is great for the environment. You may need a few supplies but nothing out of the ordinary. Here are great ways to change-up your closet!

👉 Tie dye! Tie dying is a great way to add a splash of color to any outfit. It's super fun and gives you a unique result every time. This is a great way to imbue your personality into any regular old piece of clothing. To do this you would need dye in the colors of your choice, rubber bands to create the design, and whatever it is you want to dye. You can make vegetable dyes at home or buy dye online (you might want a

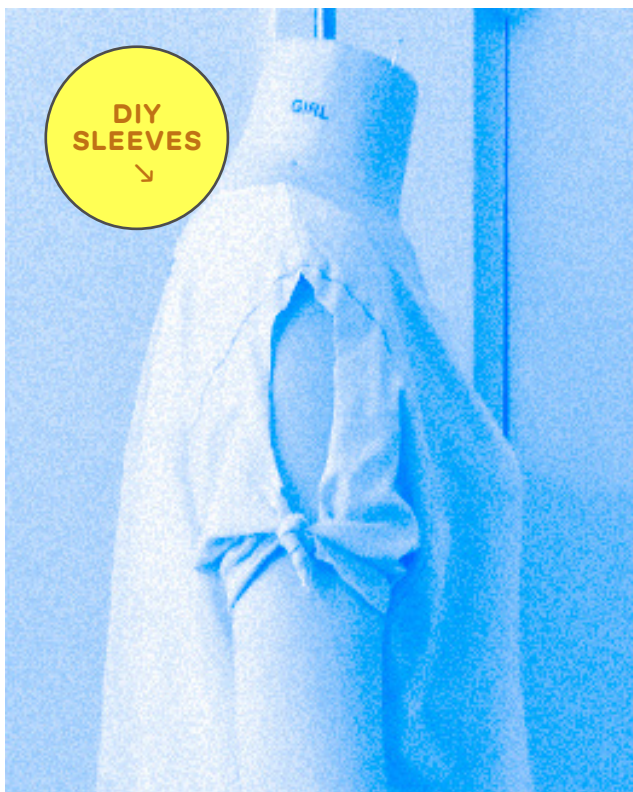
parent's help with this part), whichever way you choose to do this project there are plenty of great tutorials online.

👉 Another easy way to decorate your clothes (even your masks too) is with fun arts and crafts items. If you happen to have any beads you could glue those to a mask to add some fun texture, or just make some exciting pop-of-color necklaces with them. If you have a plain jacket (especially a denim one) it can be a great canvas for a collection of pins, patches, or anything you want. You could even use buttons to make jewelry or bedeck a jacket.

👉 One of my favorite ways to add some fun to plain clothing is with paint splatters. You can pick out your favorite colors and splash them onto a pair of jeans or shirt to your



heart's content. Just make sure the paint you use won't wash out so all of your hard work doesn't go to waste. Or, if you don't want to use paint, you can draw anything you like with a Sharpie (I recommend a fine-tip one).



👉 Lastly, if you have a pair of scissors and an old t-shirt I have the perfect project for you. With nothing more than a single pair of scissors you can completely reinvent a shirt. The only limit is your imagination! Sleeves, neckline, the bottom, the sides, designs, you name it. Here are some photos of how much I was able to change around a plain white t-shirt with nothing more than scissors and a pen. This is a great one to combine with any of the other ideas above.

How to Mourn

SHADI KHOURY
14, ABU DHABI

My grandfather died 5 days ago
I hug the urn — like I hugged his
brittle body days before
And I search of humidity in my
throat
But it is as dry as a desert
My sister and I listen to the voice-
mails he left us

My grandfather died 2 weeks ago
His funeral flowers have barely
started to wilt and I look at them
for hours every day
Hoping to have a connection with
the drooping leaves the way I did
with my grandfather.

My grandfather died a month
My father brings me a photo of him
when he was a teenager
His mouth open cheering with
laughter
And in this moment
I am the one who wants to disap-
pear

My grandfather has been dead for
3 months
My father threw out the flowers a
long time ago
But I kept a petal.
When he died my parents told me I
would feel better soon
But some days the earth just swal-
lows me and it feels just as unbear-
able as it did that day.

Sorry, Robert Frost

(A Rejection Of Poetic Advice)

I don't understand poetry,
As often as I try,
It has thoroughly confounded me
And I'm sure you wonder why.

Take Robert Frost, Mr. Two Roads
Wind and Window Flower I cite,
It's a lovely, quaint little ode
To a dark and snowy night.

It says that lovers should forget
their love
To hear of this enamoured pair
The lady is frost on the window
above,
The man is nothing but air.

SUSAN DIAMOND
13, BOZEMAN, MT

But is this love really that divine?
After two visits he leaves her,
He's just a horrible swine
And of this fact I am sure.

And she simply waits alone pining
Believing it is her fault,
While her lovely fractals stay shin-
ing,
Wishing the wind would just halt.

If only she just fell in love
With a more reliable friend
The beautiful snow she's above
Has love she may not comprehend.

After all, though she is withdrawn,
It grows closer to her everyday,
It will only leave once she's gone,
This lover will be here to stay.

Maybe I've thought too hard about
this,
Or I'm just a naive little girl,
But no one else sees something
amiss
In the way that most poems unfurl.

Free Advice



ABOUT A MILLION years ago, we announced that *Six Feet* was looking for a new advice columnist — our previous one had gone off to advice columnist college. (Okay, it was just regular college.) We printed a question from one of our readers, and invited wise and advice-ful

writers to send in their most helpful, thoughtful replies.

We got a bunch, and they were all excellent, and it became clear we had to publish them all. While other newspaper have a single, lonely advice columnist, we have a team. So much advice. Read on.

Dear Six Feet of Separation,

I played piano for about a year, since I was 10, and I really didn't like it. We are taking a break for quarantine and I think I will go to a different piano teacher when it's over. But whenever I see my teacher (he lives a few blocks away), I get really nervous that he will ask me "Oh, why aren't you doing piano anymore?"

What should I do if this happens?

Signed,
In Treble

Dear In Treble,

My name is Darwin, and I am love. I am in a family with my mom, my dad, and my brother. You are welcome to come over to our house if you know us.

My advice for In Treble: I guess you don't like your piano anymore. Maybe you could go to another place with the prettiest piano you ever saw that makes the exact notes you want. You could come with me. I have a purple piano that might make you feel better.

—Darwin, 3 ½, Atlanta, GA



My name is Georgia and I am 10 years old and I live in San Francisco! I have actually had this experience happen to me! Something that helped me was understanding that your music teacher will not be upset if you do prefer another teacher. It is important to choose what makes you feel comfortable. But if you do pass by him, still start a conversation with him! Your old music teacher will most likely not ask why you're not playing the piano anymore, but if he does, just say that you wanted to take a break from the classes!

—Georgia, 10,
San Francisco, CA

You should be honest with your old piano instructor. It's likely that he will be understanding. Most of the time things aren't always as big a deal as we make them in our minds. Just be polite and direct if he asks you about it!

—Michael Martin, 16, Wilmington, NC



Most adults are understanding and caring people, so I think that your teacher should understand. You could explain to him that things have been hard during quarantine, and that you aren't really interested in taking lessons anymore with him. Don't be afraid to speak what's on your mind with confidence.

—Lilli Baker, 11,
St. Louise, MO

I know how nerve-wracking that can be, but you don't need to worry. But I would like you to put yourself in the shoes of your piano teacher. Would you go up and ask an old student why they weren't talking your class anymore? Maybe your teacher would, and it's always reassuring to have a plan B or backup plan, so if that would make you more comfortable you should defiantly make one. (I know it makes me feel better.) You could always say you felt like taking a break and might return to playing piano after quarantine. But if you see them, don't worry, you have a plan B. :)

—Morgan, 10, Oakland, CA

I understand completely! It's hard not to feel guilty about something like that, but it is not your job to please him anymore. In this case I would continue to be friendly and if he does ask, just tell him that you did not think that it was your calling. You do not have to tell him at all, either, and just go on doing what you want. In short, just be kind and tell him that you did not like it, not everyone likes to play piano!

—Izzie M., 14, Raleigh, NC

I totally understand your concern! I just half-quit piano a couple of months ago, and I know how it feels. If your old piano teacher asks you about switching to a new teacher, you should just explain the thought process that you went through while making the decision to switch. Let him know that you enjoyed his classes, and that you can still talk to each other about piano, since you live so close. Don't stress out about it too much, because everyone has a reason that they do the things they do. Good luck!

—Varenne Salazar, 10,
New York, NY



I really understand how you feel it gets really nerve wracking when you want to tell someone something they won't like. For me, it's acting sure I like it and I like doing it but I like being behind the scenes more! One day when the acting director came to the tech rehearsal he asked me why I wasn't acting that much anymore. So I told him that I just like being on the crew better than being in the cast. I thought he wasn't going to understand and get sad or angry but he understood and he said that he'll miss me on the stage.

It's good and important to let your feelings out and if you don't want to do something you don't have to do it. But this takes courage to go up and tell that person. You can practice telling them in the mirror (sounds weird but it works!) but 100% take your time! These things don't come easy so tell them when you think you're ready! I really hope this helps you!

—Grace

Making Sense Of The Senseless

The storming of the U.S. Capitol in January stunned us all. A group of sixth graders at Park Slope Collegiate, a public school in Brooklyn, channeled their reactions into wisdom.

“How are we supposed to help the world if there is no world to help? Though this world will sometimes fall apart, there is always super glue.”

—*Sophie Lubinsky, 11*

“Even though you see people break this world, you should strive to remake this world and make it a better place.”

—*Zach, 12*

“We do not understand what we can’t understand. This is wrong. We must learn to understand everything. We must act as if we are in a pit, with nothing but our brains.”

—*Abraham Becker, 11*

“To really change the world, we have to first help people change the way they see things”

—*Frankie Scullin, 11*

“Why would you ruin this earth, most of you don’t even try to fix it because too are too lazy. You have to fix what you have ruined. Don’t just sit back, do something about your mistakes. Fix the earth so your children can live in a clean and safe earth.”

—*Adison Bloch, 11*

“Chairs may be comfy but you have to stand up.”

—*Maya Reiner Fedroff, 12*

“It is not the fact that adults are ruining the world, it is the fact that kids will save it. We cannot undo what has happened but we can change it.”

—*Matthew Becker, 11*

How To Be A Bold Jumping Spider

Spider species:
Bold Jumping Spider
(*P. Audax*)

It has an orange face on
its thorax

It has green fangs and a
black body

It eats insects and its
predators are birds,
dragonflies, and lizards.
Its habitat is fields and
grasslands.

A SCIENTIFIC STUDY
BY LUCAS MERSHON
9, SAN JOSE, CA

