

THE 2020 PANDEMIC – A PANDEMIC TALE  
By Natalia

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, my family and I took a trip to Orlando, FLA. We obviously went to Disney World, and it was, as usual, packed with other families on vacation. None of us had any clue that in two months we would have to wear masks to go out in public and that people would be buying immense amounts of toilet paper.

At the end of March my school shut down. My mom told me we would be back on April 10<sup>th</sup>, but here I am, sitting in my house, doing an online lesson on my slow laptop.

I think the hardest thing about this pandemic is being away from friends and family that live outside my house. I mean, I love my parents to the moon and back (ok, fine, my brother too), but being cooped up with them for a couple of months definitely has some cons. For example, my brother and I are arguing more often, and my dad is always singing, which unfortunately annoys my mom.

My friends say they're happy there's no school. I disagree with them, because being quarantined is even less fun than being at school. There's no doubt I would rather be at school than at home right now.

My mom is a 911 dispatcher and my dad is a fire fighter so they are both essential workers. I'm very proud of them for being brave enough to go out in public and still answer calls, put out fires, and stay safe. They are my heroes. I know that there are other essential workers out there who are working day and night to help keep others healthy, like doctors and nurses, people stocking grocery store shelves, and truck drivers delivering food all over the country. There are lots of people working hard to keep us happy and as healthy as possible. I thank them.