



20 Words for 2020: A Fifth Grade Perspective

Stories by: Putnam Heights 5th Graders
Eau Claire, WI

*The thing that hit most was the confusion.
Always wearing masks.
The disappointment.
The sadness.
NEVER take things for granted.*

*Even wearing a mask all I want to do is go
to school and learn.
I won't stop fighting COVID.*

*School shutdown.
Fear, furious, sad, confused.
Virtual learning.
Hate, desperation.
Back to school.
Excited.
The start of COVID-19.
Worried, hopeful.*

*I'll never forget when the trip to Beaver
Creek
And the sports I play got canceled.
I was so disappointed.*

*Split up from friends.
Lunch in the classroom.
Wearing masks.
Sad, afraid, angry, upset, anxious.
Don't take anything for granted.*

*We're all in isolation.
I feel distant from my friends.
I have to wear a mask now.
I feel disappointed.*

*I will never forget school in 2020.
There was only half of the class in school.
I was feeling frustrated.*

*Learning from home is lonely.
Missing friends.
Frustrated, upset, unsure.
Everything different.
I hope everything goes back to normal
soon.*

*School shut down and I had fear,
happiness, excitement, madness rushing
through my veins.
And I had to wear masks.*

*School Closure
Frustration, Sadness
Stuck At Home
Isolation, Loneliness
Back To School
Hopeful, Positive
Virtual
Unsure, Crazy
Wishing For Better*

*School is closing and I am sad because
school is fun.
How long before we will be back in
school?*

*Split up from friends.
Lonely, bored, sad, weird, scared.
Standing six feet apart.
No field trips.*

*I hate all virtual.
I was bored and lonely.
Masks covered our faces.
I had to take advantage of opportunities.
School was different too...*

*I will never forget the shutdown of school
in March after our field trip.
Sad, confused, surprised, mad, and
angry.*

*Masks everywhere,
No going in public,
Social distancing,
Shocked, frustrated,
Disconnected, disappointed,
Lonely,
It's hard,
Mixed emotions,
It's been unforgettable.*

*Since the virus came we wear masks at
school.
We are not allowed to go to stores,
restaurants, only school.*

*I'm shocked.
Wearing masks at school.
We can't use the water fountains in the
school.
I'm very anxious and grateful.*

*Flat out weird year for sure.
Wearing masks, washing hands one
hundred times more than normal.
Feeling mad and annoyed.*

*Having to become independent with
things.
No groups or partners.
Feeling lonely.
Having to become more organized.
Doing virtual school.*

*Leaving school was very disappointing.
I was scared and shocked.
And the summer was very boring.
Wearing masks is weird.*

*It's a lock down.
A lot of places and schools closed.
It was disappointing.
It's been a very scary year.*

*Anything can change at anytime.
Annoyed.
No five day school.
Disappointed.
Wearing masks.
Virtual school.
No groups.
No eating with other students.
Not seeing friends.*

*Definitely a different year.
From being sad to happy then surprised.
Wearing masks at school.*

*Disappointment, sadness, frustration.
I have learned to be more organized.
I have learned how to be responsible with
my stuff.*

*It's been unforgettable,
and I've grown closer with my family.
Even though events have been cancelled,
I'm living through history.*

*In the beginning shocked and scared.
Now hopeful and scared.
Always washing hands.
Thankful that I have become more
independent.*

*March, My Birthday, Covid-19.
Don't Take Things for Granted.
Terrified, but Positive.
Clearing my Mind, Meditate.*

A 5th Grade Teacher's Perspective

**Story by: Melissa Greer
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Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined what has happened in education over the past year. Like others in our community, my students and I have experienced constant change and a wide variety of emotions. Though these children have “lost” time in the classroom, they have gained independence, responsibility, and gratitude for the times we have been able to be together. I have no doubt they will continue to persevere and become our future leaders.

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