

Akhil Deevi (Youth) 3rd place, Untitled

Even though it seems to me that I didn't really learn anything from Covid-19, it's really obvious I did when I think about it. I learned to appreciate everything from just getting a new magazine in the mail to breathing the fresh air of National Parks. Covid-19 made an uncrossable ocean between me and many things I love, like going to the library, visiting national parks, and playing with my friends. But when that ocean shriveled up and evaporated, my thankfulness had no bounds as I happily went back to my daily life. I went to the library again, rode my new bicycle with my friends, and started visiting national parks again. I even started appreciating writing in school, the one subject I loathed back in fourth grade. If I have to thank Covid-19 for anything, it's helping me love and appreciate all the tiny things in my daily life.

Back in 2019, before the pandemic, I used to loathe many things like the noisy school bus, homework, school, and my annoying little brother. When the pandemic started, it changed everything. School closed. Everyone stayed home. No meeting friends. After a week of this excruciating pandemic torture, everything I had seemed boring and useless, like a worn out shoe. I was desperate to meet someone and talk and do something fun. My parents were always busy, but my little brother wasn't. I realized I could play board games and talk about video games with my brother too, not just my friends. We kept each other entertained through many months until the pandemic eased and we could escape the house again.

Overall, I think I learned a lot from this pandemic experience. I started to value things more and I got to understand the people in my daily life better. Even though Covid-19 has been a torment, I've learned many important lessons to help me later on in my life