

Enjoy reading our students' works, written at difficult times of Covid-19. That's what I call e-learning. Time for creative writing. Take care and stay safe. Anthony Tun

How to survive a pandemic lockdown, what we watch and read, why we learn stuff. We are grateful to our young authors for agreeing to have their work published for inspiration and enjoyment of others.



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## Wicker weaving

This text will be about a skill I am learning in this part of corona holidays.

About a week ago I went for a walk with my mum. We visited Eva, a woman living in Libštát. When we appeared at her place, there were three main things that were written into my mind immediately. Homemade "tvarohová buchta", elderberry liqueur and sheaves of wicker. Eva's philosophy, since when she was young, was: „Every girl must know the basics: she needs to know how to sew her dress, she needs to know how to bake bread and she needs to know how to knit a basket for eggs. “

Because I have this, sometimes very good and sometimes not very good (for example when you need to focus on your final exam learning), attribute of wanting to learn every other very random thing, I started to learn how to weave from wicker (vrbové prouti). Yesterday I went to a place surrounded by forest, where the only visitors are does (female deer), for my very first lesson. At first I was shown different kinds of baskets; Eva once even wove a dog hut. Eva had her wicker sorted in sheaves by length and colour.

I had no idea there can be so many colours of wicker. They went from grey to brown across almost every shade of green yellow orange and red. Eva told me that she has her own „prutník“ (wicker-house). It is a glade with about ten willows; it took fifteen years to grow them enough for good weaving. The willows must be cut every year, otherwise the wicker can't be used. Before she grew her own „prutník“, she was cutting many strange willows. She always asked if she could take some twigs in the nearest house. When the

twig's colour appeared special, she asked to take an offshoot. That is why she has so many colours today.

Wicker, already sorted and cut, was very dry, so we couldn't weave from it. It was often braking. Dry wicker needs to be steamed before weaving, then you can weave in every season of the year. Eva wanted me to learn from the actual beginning anyways, so we went to cut the last willow in the „prutník“. Then we sorted the wicker. Unhealthy wicker must go away and the healthy must be sorted by length and thickness.

Then I learnt how to do the basis, the bottom of my future basket, which is made by the thicker wicker. It was way more difficult than I expected. You need to coordinate your hands very precisely. You need to look after every move and knit the wicker very tightly. Eva told me that I need to be listening to the wicker, I need to watch the way it grew, I need to watch how it can be shaped. The best thing was that I was very focused. I could neither talk and nor think. My head went through an amnesia.

After about three hours I was tired. I am not used to do something for this long. Eva exactly knew, what strategy to pick. She brought me a big piece of a homemade „mazanec, beránek a tvarohová buchta“. After this little break I could continue. I started to knit the actual basket. Eva chose the simplest technique and the thinnest wicker to begin with.

I left at half past nine pm., so I spent about five hours there. I don't know if that was caused by the head amnesia, a power of life that went from wicker to my hands, activating meridian ways through squeezing points on my hands, or the calm face of Eva, but I felt

full of energy. I felt warm from inside. I felt awake after a week of vain fights looking for motivation. I even had a very special dream. I don't know what the dream was exactly about, but I remember laughing from my sleep. I was trying to practise today, but unfortunately I forgot a small part of the technique so I couldn't get very far.

I am looking forward to visit Eva tomorrow and I can't wait to finish my first basket. Unfortunately, Eva has time just in the morning, then she is busy on Friday and weekend. If we continued next week, the wicker would get dry.

Natalie M. (Class 13)

#### [How to survive a pandemic lockdown](#)

At the beginning I would like to tell you that this is very subjective and everybody needs something different but I would like to share some of my thoughts with you.

How to survive a pandemic lockdown? For someone it is very easy and for some it is very heavy. It depends on the occasions and the situations. Quarantine could be helpful for someone, who is young, has no children and is employed. I know that it is a serious problem, but they have a time and they have no worries about their children or job... Something else are families- parents will be the new heroes.

It is important to see the situation realistically, to know information about that and do NOT a panic, but this is behind us (I think). Now I will put down some of my thoughts how to survive it- be mentally health and what helps me to be fine (this is a very funny moment for me, because I feel like the bloggers

or influencers). For me it is good to do sports, it does not matter what it is, do what you like. Cooking is also helping me, it is a relax time for me. I really do not understand why the yeast is sold out! I could not find it anywhere and I do not believe that everyone bakes bread every day.

Next thing which is helping me is doing nothing. Everywhere around us are opinions like: Quarantine is a big opportunity to do anything and everything, to learn new things etc... It is true, but it does not mean that you will be a genius or you should do it. I do nothing for a day. Lots of people think that students have a holiday, but this is not a true. When I am at home, I must do something else than homework and I am really frustrated that I have no time.

At the moment I need a rest. Next day I will do much more. Planning your time could be helpful, do your schedules. For me it is impossible, because every day is a new adventure with my family. During this time I realized how friends are important for me, I did not know that before. Enjoying time (online) with my friends is helpful for me.

Find your own space, when you feel bad, you can go there and be just alone.

Wake up early, do stuff what you must to do, relax, do things what you like, do not procrastinate.

The situation is not really bad, worse things happened before. We are alive, we do not suffer or starve, we are fine.

Amálie R.

## Why do we learn stuff?

What have I learnt about e-learning during quarantine? Well, I have found this style of learning extremely difficult since I have a very big problem to stay calm and focused while I'm at home. It's very easy for me to get discouraged and distracted and forget about deadlines of assignments since I do not hear them directly from the teacher and have to look for them myself.

I think I can speak for many of us, that we do not really voluntarily look for our own assignments. And since I get distracted it's quite hard to keep track of what am I supposed to do till what due what date at school as it is, let alone at home. So I suppose I learnt that it is actually very hard to self-study, keep track of deadlines and actually get yourself into the head space of learning at home, which is usually associated with rest and just doing whatever you feel like, which let's face it, is 99% of the time not studying.

On the other hand if I get myself to do something after all, I really do look into whatever we are meant to do and spend the necessary time to learn right there and then, so I can get it over with properly and thoroughly. So basically, it is all or nothing for me, it's like bursts of motivation at random times, that I have to pursue right there and then or I lose them. Which is a really bad learning method. But I can't bring myself to do it other ways since it has somehow worked to this day well enough.

This whole distance learning is definitely a big lesson overall about what I could be capable of learning (in theory), if I actually had the willpower

and motivation to do so, as opposed to at what capacity I am using my potential right now. So basically I guess I am just lazy in a way. Which does sound pretty bad. Well, if you do not feel like studying, it won't really be of much use anyway, since you'll easily forget what you were trying to learn. At least that's what happens to me.

This whole situation just made me realize, how nice it is to actually go to school and have someone give you all the information you need in such a way, that you can easily understand, keep track of what they're saying and actually remember it longer than for the period of the next 3 days. I really appreciate the way teachers at our school deliver our subjects. It's actually really neat and organised.

Whenever I try to prepare studying materials for myself, they are usually really messy and chaotic. So based on all of the information that I have just exposed myself to, I have a lot of things to work on if I want to actually efficiently learn something and be prepared for possible "maturita exam" in June.

Vendy M.



### What I am reading/watching

TV Series, VIKINGS

Genre = action, drama, historical, adventure

Plot

TV- series Vikings is about a Viking Ragnar Lothbrok, who sailed the west to England. He with his group arrived to Lindisfarne in England. At this moment he became very famous, because he found a new world. He became a king and raided England and later Paris. 4 TV-series seasons are about his story and 5. and 6. seasons are about his sons.

Petr C.

### Lockdown edition

#### **How to survive a pandemic lockdown**

Just live. Honestly I do not know how to survive a pandemic lockdown. For me it is very hard, because I have to be in contact with my friends. Not on the internet (social networks), but face to face.

A big problem is to be okay with my brother. When we were kids we had shared one bedroom. But since he was at high school we share bedroom only at weekends. Now he is studying in Prague and lives there, but when the lockdown has started he comes to visit us. So we are sharing bedroom and it is very bad. Our relationship is falling down. Each of us has different hobbies. He likes playing on the piano and singing. Actually he is studying conservatory and he is singing in the

National/State Opera (opera). I really hate this kind of singing. I like go look at opera at National Theatre, but we are singing at home and I want silence.

On top of that we will share a room when I will go to university. On the other hand, he is ok. The important thing for us was to set down some rules. Like the agreement of roommates from The Big Ben Theory.

Be mentally fit is another important thing. I am solving it by bike. Every day I go riding my bike for almost for 2 hours. It is very relaxing. A man can stop thinking about school and leaving exams.

#### **Why do we learn stuff?**

“E – learning” is not good for me. If you do not have to do leaving exams it could be good. I think for other classes this “e – learning” is a good thing. They can do things for school, added to which they have time to do things for they interesting and new. In my opinion “e – learning” is the best and maybe the only one way how to learn/teach. But for example maths is a very difficult subject. There you have to understand things (like make sense of) not only to know them. And “e – learning” is not ideal for that.

I am sorry if I did not carry out the assignment (I hope I did), but I needed to complain to somebody about how bad lockdown is and life in it.

(Author wishes to remain anonymous)

#### **Why do we learn stuff?**

I don't know. I hate this. Distance studying is the worst for several

reasons. First of all, not meeting the people, I do not mean only classmates, I mean the teachers. It must really be tough for them as well. I personally enjoy the classes in real, better than online classes through Skype or Microsoft Teams. It is hard to interact. Most of the time, it is hard to motivate myself to do something.

So, once I am doing something for school, I do as much as I can at once. Then I finish that day, I end up all tired and exhausted and so annoyed, that I simply just lie in my bed for the next two days. Unfortunately, I can't think of any other way, how to make this work. I feel really bad, physically and mentally when I study too much and when I try too hard, but I also feel really bad when I do nothing.

I am trying to push myself to do my best in this situation. But sometimes I just end up sitting in my bed, reading, watching stupid Netflix rom com and eating too much. I am really confused now by this situation when we don't know what is going to happen with our "maturita" leaving exam. It is messed up. I mean, if I knew we are not doing it, I would go volunteering (health care, agronomy) or do something useful. Right now, I feel really useless. I am literally helping no one with my studying attempts.

I rather help my parents with some stuff in the garden or something at home. That makes much more sense to me. We have already planted potatoes, worked in our glasshouse, cleaned the flats we hire out in Příšovice, prepared firewood for the winter and lot more. That is the productivity I am able to push myself to. Then I feel useful.

Anežka Š.

## How to survive pandemic lockdown

If you take this lockdown seriously and follow the governments' instructions, you are probably very depressed now. That is why many people break the rules and still go out with their friends and have fun outside.

I am lucky to have a big garden and two places to stay, one house with my parents and one with my boyfriend, so it is easier for me to stay sane. There is a lot to do around the house, I do a lot of gardening, planting seeds and keep myself busy on the fresh air. Sometimes I just go out to pet the chickens and check on the planted seeds. I try to maintain daily routine, first thing in the morning is to drink water, then stretch myself with yoga and small exercise, have healthy breakfast which lasts until noon. Then my routine ends and I sometimes fall asleep, sometimes I practice walking on slackline, but most of the time I go climbing.

In the rock-town, I meet my group of friends with my boyfriend and we climb together. When the sun goes down we move to my boyfriend's house and we have a party. This is the best part of my lockdown, it feels like there is no virus, no restrictions and everything is normal, but I would not recommend it. Alcohol is not the best way to cope, because it helps only for a short time. The next morning I am not able to get up and exercise and the whole day is very lazy.

I really struggle to find motivation to do homework for my school, I procrastinate and do everything last minute. I think this way of learning does not suit me at all. I like to do my own stuff, read books I like, find information about topics that interest me. When I do the homework on school online I jump from Geography to Chemistry and procrastinate with essays. When we have Czech lesson I do lots of other stuff around. I also do not recommend this approach to homework or home office.

To survive quarantine you have to be really mentally strong and be hard on yourself. I am not this kind of person, so I struggle. I check on the news and numbers very often and it makes me anxious. I am worried about our leaving exams because I feel like I don't study enough. What helps me the most is meeting my friends and stay in touch with them. I message my friends and family abroad to check if they are okay in the quarantine.

I am still getting used to this new situation and my only advice for other people would be not to worry too much, stay patient and do any kind of movement in the nature.

Eliška M.

### My feelings at this time of year

I am scared, but I believe in good tomorrows. I am in a very crazy and lovely period of my life.. I must be at home in this beautiful weather. At the beginning of the (Spring) holidays I was full of energy and I was very happy. I planned relaxing, visiting new places, cross-country skiing. My plans fell through in few minutes, I was very unhappy. I was sick. I had big headaches.

I want know what will be in future, but no one knows this. I can prepare for maturita exam, but I have no drive. I now feel good. I don't know why. I always see the same people, same rooms, same everything. I don't like to describe my feelings.

I believe in better time. I do not know whether every cloud has a silver lining. I have never experienced this.

I think life goes as life wants. Life does not have good and bad sides. It depends on the point of view how we take it. We always want to find something good, we will find it. I take life as it is. Floating through life as I want. I enjoy my life at full blast. I think it should be so, because we have limited time, but we do not know how much.

Anna H.

### Sunshine

There are many good things in dark and evil situations. And it isn't just situations, you can also find goodness in bad characters, food, weather...

...Everything has its good, and bad parts, but most of people see just what is suitable for them. Including me. Bad things, you can at last use as an excuse. Without bad things, no one would be able to recognise good things.

Kristýna V.

### Quarantine

The worst part about quarantine is that you can't go anywhere you are stuck in one place. I will tell you my story in quarantine, listen carefully.

The first day in quarantine I was bored because I could not go anywhere with

anyone, so I did what every people do, I started playing games and ate chips. But this time it was different because I wasn't thinking I would like to go out to the wild because if you have the opportunity to go, you don't want to, but if you don't have the opportunity, than you want to go, so I went on the balcony to look around and have some fresh air.

The second day I woke up. It was amazing because I could sleep as long as I wanted but it felt weird because I wanted to go to school. At school I have friends (oh, that looks like I don't have friends out of school. Yea, I have, but they don't live in Semily). So I think that is all I have to say to negative part. Let's talk about positive things. :D .

The best of all is that I have more time to study for entrance exams and play video games. And I heard that the entrance exams was moved and that means I have more time.

That is all I have to say,

Vojtěch S.



### Every cloud has a silver lining

It seems like this phrase is used very often, however, I feel like in some cases it is not entirely true. Of course in some instances it is indeed very

accurate like, for example, if you miss a bus and have to walk your way home then it will help you clear your mind which is a good thing, right? Of course it is. On the other hand though the same thing, I fear, cannot be said about such thing as trauma.

In a way dealing with trauma could be potentially seen as a cloud's silver lining, although I feel like that should not apply, since the healing from trauma comes from the person that has to deal with it and not the trauma on it's own. So in this instance I feel like the idiom is flawed and the message it sends does not really apply.

On the other hand I suppose that exceptions prove the rule. And in most cases there is indeed a silver lining to every cloud and we should look for such linings in order to keep going forward and stay motivated looking into the future!

Vendy M.

### My holiday and time in corona quarantine

The beginning of my spring holidays didn't start in the best way. I was really stressed out because of my year project. Literally, I had only one week to finish my whole year project and I was almost at the beginning of it. So I worked hard. I worked late into the night, but I didn't finish it, so decided to not to go to the mountains with my sibling and my grandparents.

Every spring holiday my grandparents from Opava take me and my siblings to the mountains (this year to Špindl). My grandparents arrived one day before our trip to the mountains, and I was so scared, because I had to tell them that



this year, I'll not go with them. I was so so scared of my grandma, because when she gets angry, she is...ANGRY. My expectations were fulfilled. She got angry. So next day, on Monday, my grandparents took my siblings and they went to the mountains without me. I was actually sad, that I can't go with them and I continued working on my year project. Next day, on Tuesday, my grandma called me. I thought that she wants to tell me that I'm a bad girl again or something like that, but she wanted to tell me, that they saw on TV that all schools are closed, so I can go to the mountains, to them and after our arrival back home I could continue working on my year project.

„I'll call you later. I have to think it through.“ I said to her. In the evening I decided that I will go to the mountains. So I picked up my things and snowboard and I called my grandma „I'm going to the car with my mom. We'll come in next our“. But my grandma said „It was raining all day, it will be the same tomorrow. All week it will be rainy except Friday. So, I took all my things out of the car and I went back home. This year I wasn't in the mountains. I'm so sad because of it. Hopefully next year will be better.

And what about quarantine? That sitting at home, reading books, watching films is what I do in summer holidays, so it's nothing new for me. It's like earlier summer holidays, but I live in a small valley. Around that valley there are only trees.

There lives my family and our four neighbors. So I can go to the forest, I can do gardening or just hang outside and without surgical mask as well. That's great. Because I'm free.

People in the cities and towns need to sit at home, because if they'll go outside, they could meet somebody and then they can get coronavirus. So I'm really happy, that my parents started living here almost 17 years ago. Me and my mom made surgical masks for our big family. I really hope it will get better.

Emilie V.

[How much of the silver lining does the corona pandemic have?](#)

“Every cloud has a silver lining” they say, and it turns out to be true even in hard times such as these days. A world pandemic is quite a huge cloud to deal with, but many people seem to fight determinedly. We support each other, cheer each other up in order not to go mad in the self-isolation, help those who need help and try to stay optimistic. Well, at least a part of us - the other part panics in an understandable fear of the unknown future.

But what most of the world has in common is, that it stopped. What seemed to be eternally frantically moving is slow now, we all were forced to stop travelling, spending money in shopping centres, spend most of time at work, throw parties...

Time will show us, which people, activities and things we really miss. Maybe we will learn to appreciate nature in our very neighbourhood, the time spent with family or - what more - ourselves only. Maybe we will find the

joy in small things again. Or maybe not. But to have the time for watching Netflix nine hours straight - that's what I'd call a silver lining too.

### Hen-house

I am not sure, but probably half year ago, my dad with my youngest brother read some book about chickens, hens, or something about hen breeding. After they read this book, they decided to breed hens and maybe chickens.

It was funny, because every evening my dad read some thrilling book to my brother, but now every evening he read a book about hen breeding.

My brother with my dad want a hen breed „česká kropenka“, but I want to convince them to buy also hens from the „concentration camp“. It is hens from cage breeding, but let's be honest, it slightly seems like a “concentration camp”, so I usually call them „hens from concentration camp“.

So now when we are all at home (my mum is on maternity leave and dad is a teacher) we have a lot of time to build a henhouse.

In the corner of our garden, over our little lake, there will be the henhouse for our future hens. My dad bought wood and they (dad, youngest brother and our friend, who is a craftsman) started to build it.

My brother was really excited. He still wanted and still wants (because the henhouse isn't finished) to help with everything. Sometimes he is really, but really, really unbearable, but when he works (when he wants to) he is unbelievably hardworking.

He is really excited and when he was on the roof of the henhouse he said: „It will be a lot of eggs!“ And I was looking at him as he was happy, that he will have a henhouse.

Until we will have hens he wanted to sleep and live in the henhouse and when we have the hens he will probably sleep on its roof.

Barbora S.



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### Every cloud...

When I was burying the body, something crossed my mind. My thoughts were running somehow like this: the ground beetle had blood, all the ground beetles have blood, insects have blood, people have blood, we have something in common, so insects must be from this world, they die, everything from this world must die. I got shocked by the discovery.

Everything that has something like blood must die, because it is from this world and everything from this world must die. Our house was built, it is living now and once, it will be ruined,

that means it will die. Trees and flowers die. All the animals die and all the people die too. I will die and you will die. You can find similarity between all the things in the world. That is beautiful, right? There are two things that everything has in common. Life and Death.

Natálie M.

### Corona spring

..I'm tired of sitting at home all day. But I don't know what to do anymore to not get bored at home. I was even running today, which I actually hate. But I guess I should force myself to learn, because this is the perfect time to do something useful at home. But for those who doesn't have to study for any exam is a simple rule: You can save humanity for the first time by lying on the couch watching Netflix. Don't mess it up!

Franziska P.

