

# Reading Changing Perspectives

By: Lucy Bench

When I first heard about the Coronavirus, I was confused about what it was. Every day I heard about it spreading to new places and about the horrible quarantines which required staying in your house for a while. When I was looking for a book to read my teacher recommended *Fever of 1793* by Laurie Anderson. I started to read it and began to understand Covid's impact on society more because of the similarities between the two. During the quarantine, books were my safe place and how I could get away from my Coronavirus-related anxiety.

A couple days before Covid struck our town and shut down our schools, my older brother told me that the library would be shutting down, and that we could request books to check out over the quarantine. Almost immediately, my brother and I hopped onto our computers, signed onto our library website and requested books from the library. We checked out about 30 books. When my brother went to get them and came back home, it was like Christmas. I grabbed all of the books I had checked out and put them on the bottom shelf of my nightstand.

On March 13th, our schools shut down. On the first day of e-school, I dove right into my first book, *Sophia's War* by Avi which I finished the next day. I continued finishing books quickly and I finally realized how much I love and enjoy reading.

After a while, I was upstairs in my room reading as much as I could. I was reading so much that sometimes my mom would come into my room and tell me to put the book down! Over quarantine I developed a new pet peeve; not ending on a chapter.

Week after week, I continued to finish books at a rapid pace. Outside of my room, we had a bin that was filled to the brim with all sorts of books. Once I had finished them all, time seemed to go by more slowly. Luckily, my mom bought me the *Hunger Games* trilogy. I fell in love with it. The trilogy was full of action-packed events that I didn't want to finish too quickly so I read them as slow as I could, savoring every page.

Our town's high school requires its students to read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. As my older brothers were going into their freshman year, they decided they wanted to read it early so they would have a headstart on their freshman year and understand the book even more. I asked my mom if I could read it too and she said yes. The first chapter was hard for me to get through, and though it was probably the slowest chapter I have ever read, I pushed myself to finish it. In fact, I was the only one who finished it! My brothers said it was boring and that the plot was too basic. I thought that it was an amazing book, even though it was a bit complicated. Finishing *To Kill a Mockingbird* made me want to read harder books. I learned that sometimes you have to push through and that in the end it will be worth it. It also inspired me to read *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. The book taught me about the seriousness of segregation, and how it is not right to treat people differently because of the color of their skin.

In conclusion, I learned that reading can educate us on issues that are important and in some cases, need to change to make the world a better and more fair place. As I read *The Help*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the extra time that quarantine provided me, I learned more about the unfairness of segregation. It made me think more deeply about the issues of race and how it's wrong to treat

someone differently just because of the color of their skin. I am grateful how reading helped teach me and I want to encourage others to gain knowledge about events in society through books.