*The Pandemic*

by Ryan Bateman, 7th grade, Somers Middle School

I remember the way the world started using their brains and started to become more creative and use what they have. Back when the coronavirus struck at us hard and was spreading from place to place so quickly. We all thought that the virus was a joke. Until it wasn’t thousands, and thousands of people were dying. The United States of America ended up in a huge lockdown or what we call *The Pandemic.* The pandemic was scary but also taught me a couple of things.

First, I couldn't hang out with my friends in any physical way, so I set up facetime and played tons of videogames with them. I also had online sport practices where I set up a lacrosse goal and played while my coaches gave my friends, and I drills to do.

My mom is a physical therapist, and she has elderly patients. My mom wanted to be kind and respectful. So, I helped her donate pictures and snacks. This helped them very much. This made me happy because it's always good to help somebody out in need.

We discovered a new app kind of like facetime called zoom. This was a new way to connect with people. This was awesome because now people from other parts of the world could stay in touch with each other. When school went to e- learning we used this app. Every day I would wear a random hat on the call. I wanted to cheer the class up. I liked e- learning because it's nice to do something different occasionally. One of my favorite parts of the day was lunch because that’s the time I could eat whatever I wanted in my house. It was kind of weird ending 5th grade by e- learning. It was sad to not be able to see my teachers on the last day of school and just say bye in person.

 My family and I adapted in many ways. Coronavirus may have been a tough time, but at least I got to spend more time inside with my family. Every night my family and I had a movie night. Before covid my family never ate dinner together. My sister would be upstairs and come eat when my family and I were done eating. When covid started and we were in the pandemic, my sister came out of her room to sit at the table and eat with us.

My mom and sister are great cooks. My mom would make dinner and my sister would make dessert. I was also taught by them how to cook. I also have a dog. Her name is Gia. I taught Gia some tricks like how to sit, lay down, bring me a ball and more!

I am not the only person who has adapted. I’ve seen tons of awesome creations that other people have made. I’ve seen people play tennis on rooftops or make a huge pipe out of paper and cardboard and slide the candy into our buckets on Halloween, people made so many cool and colorful masks. There is so much more but I just can’t name them all. I love the creativity that these people put into their projects and the time they take away from their normal day just to color a mask or make a huge cardboard tube. These people could have just given up, but they didn’t, and they reached their goals. Even when the world was dying.

I have improved a lot over the quarantine. From all the e- learning, facetime and videogames, I learned more and more about technology. I also finished a game and got much better at multiplayer games. I would win all the time. Technology was a big part that I improved on. I was on technology pretty much the whole quarantine.

I was really impressed about how the world decided how to use their brains and think more and use their talent instead of wasting it. Even though the quarantine was horrible in many ways, it also kind of helped us. We started to cooperate and look and discover new things to use and to help the world.  I am also happy how I adapted and improved over the quarantine.