

MY PLACE

Shazia Arifi

Hello, my name is Shazia and this is my place. My place of peace, my place of comfort. It's so restful and quiet here. You can get rid of any kind of stress and pressure once you try the swing and breath the air out here.

Whenever I feel very tired and can't think straight, I come here. Most people don't really come here. I can focus on things I can't figure out. The wind, the sun, the air and the sound of people laughing, playing around and having fun echoes through my ears and fills me with happiness and I can't help but grin at the memory. My place smells rich with the lilies and roses. My place, it's very precious, adored and unique to me and to everyone who knows about it. I love my place.

We were really happy and excited starting a new year {2020} and then it didn't really go how we imagined it. Not even 2 months ago, we found out about a huge virus that had affected a lot of people around the world and that changed all our lives. We had to wash our hands a lot and stay 1.5m away from EVERYONE, which is called

"social distancing", even from our families and friends. It was to keep ourselves and other people safe since the virus spread from germs and all. But it wasn't easy at the beginning social distancing from friends who we saw every day at school. Everyone was worried, but we had to do whatever to keep everyone safe. After a while, because the cases in the world kept growing and cases in Australia were a lot too, the Premier decided for us to stay in isolation for as long as the cases grew less or stopped. We had to be on holiday and not go to school or anywhere too crowded.

Then about after 4 weeks, since the cases in Australia grew less especially in Mount Barker where I live - I used to live in Pakistan and came here around 2 years ago - the Premier said we could go to school if we wanted to. I went 4 days after the start and I noticed that most people were back. Some took something like 3 weeks to be back since no one forced them to be back at school {apart from their parents}. We had to work with packs as in work sheets and booklets for around 3-5 weeks and washing our hands was the main thing at the start and end of a break around the whole school.

When it all went pretty well we started going back to our nearly normal school routines. After a while, we went back to kind of normal in Western Australia, but we still had to do social distancing and wash our hands often. It was pretty hard, but after a few weeks, it felt like nothing happened {except when people talked about it}. Everyone was, and still is relieved from adults to children.

Everyone was worried but, working together sometimes made them forget about coronavirus which was good because my dad believes that it's not just the germs but the people who stress a lot as well. Coronavirus is really stressing to most people and not really an easy type of virus to handle.

{One good thing about coronavirus is that it really helps people wash their hands more often!}