**Poetry Selection Week 2**

**Young Writers’ Collective**

**Ledbury Poetry Festival Community Programme**

**Big change – covid – 19 by Jayme**

Into the world I crept freely,

So I could take over completely.

Forcing people to hid in fear,

Because they know that I am near.

Still some people are brave,

As they are eager to save.

They are trying to get rid of me,

But it’s not that easy as you can see.

I have turned all lives upside down,

So that I can claim my crown.

I have claimed so many people,

Because I am just that lethal.

I see you cry,

As you run and try.

To banish me,

But it’s not as easy as one, two, three.

I came here with a purpose,

No it wasn’t to join a circus.

For reasons you will never understand,

Sometimes I don’t know why I came to this land.

Once I have set you all free,

You will jump with glee.

But your lives won’t be the same,

You will appreciate that picture in your frame.

You won’t take things for granted,

Look at all the flowers you have planted.

You won’t be so greedy,

You will give to the needy.

You will more time for each other,

Make sure you go and hug your mother.

You will make for your friends,

Or even make amends.

You will feel strange,

Because your perception has changed.

Taking care of one another,

Yes even your brother.

Life is not an experiment,

So please take care of the environment.

Change is sometime out of our control,

It can be both good and bad for the soul.

**Big Change by Sophie**

People all around the world were going about their day

Work, school, meeting their friends

Little did they know what was coming their way

No warning, no announcement, not prepared for these things to end

Lives would be changed forever, hearts would be shattered

But for everything they did, none of it really mattered

For this disaster was invisible

All they could do was wait

And do everything possible

In every city, town and state

Countries locked down, closed shops

Key workers risking their lives

Nobody thought that their schedules would stop

And their countries would cease to thrive

Lives would be changed forever, hearts would be shattered

But for everything they did, none of it really mattered

While the majority stayed in their homes

Playing by the rules

A minority thought they were free to roam

Thinking they were invincible, the fools

Only allowed to leave for essentials

But everything in high demand

Everyone went fucking mental

The selfishness, sane people couldn’t understand

Lives would be changed forever, hearts would be shattered

But for everything they did, none of it really mattered

With 2 metres apart, the mandatory distance

Some people couldn’t care less

Overstepping the mark, reveling in ignorance

They come closer with every step

Lives would be changed forever, hearts would be shattered

But for everything they did, none of it really mattered

Now, as we’re stuck in our homes

Avoiding the disease, dodging every threat

Just waiting and waiting for the unknown

While we’re trying our best

Lives would be changed forever, hearts would be shattered

But for everything we did, none of it really mattered

This may sound like a horror movie

And we wish that that was the deal

Nothing will ever run as smoothly

Because the Covid-19 is real

Our lives have been changed forever, our hearts have been shattered

But for everything we’ve done, none of it really matters

Suffering in silence as our loved ones slip by

Technology, our only form of contact

No funerals allowed, we can’t say goodbye

Fuck knows if our sanity is intact

As we hide in isolation

Our days bleeding together

As this unfolds around us, we unite as a nation

But this seems to last forever

**Big change by Kelsey**
The big change the change to my happiness my welfare and my mental health. Covid 19 stay at home and stay safe. It's what I intend to do it's just like being on a UK holiday in November where all the shops and the amusement parks are shut so you just go back to your accommodation well that's life at the moment some people I feel lonely bored depressed or just pissed off because they're stuck at home with the siblings that won't leave them alone and your parents nagging at you to do things

But me how do you think I'm coping what do you think? I'm great I don't care about being on lockdown why you ask

Well let me tell you a little something and insight to how I feel I'm overwhelmed with love love that I can't escape not that I wish to but love like I've never been loved before being able to spend time with my other half creating memories laughing together supporting each other and looking at the bigger picture giving me more incentive to work harder to get a house so we can live together that's my goal

It's amazing how my heart feels complete the warmest that lives in me and my smile which people now complementary on its own because I found love and I'm in a relationship where I can well and truly say that I'm happy and I'll say that again I am now well and truly happy

**Change by Jayme**

Life is looking pretty bleak,

Because its changing as we speak.

Wash both your hands slowly,

Make sure its done thoroughly.

Keep your distance from each other,

You don’t want to catch it from one another.

Stay inside and lock the door,

These are warnings we shouldn’t ignore.

Finding things to do,

Without going to the zoo.

Because life has stopped,

Leaving us all shocked.

Speaking on my phone everyday,

As it the only way.

Or all alone I sit,

Which is hard I have to admit.

Longing to see your family,

Instead of sitting on your balcony.

Wanting to visit my friend,

Instead of staying in at the weekend.

Wishing to spend time in the sun,

Or simply having a one-to-one.

None of this is possible,

Which is fucking horrible.

Constantly cleaning,

Kitchens are gleaming.

Painting pictures,

Writing scriptures.

Watching films,

Creating stills.

I am slowly going insane,

Oh where is my fucking ashtray.

**Missing out by Harvey**

I used to miss my flat whenever I left it,

I would count the hours until I could pack up my kit and head home.

Now I feel as though these walls have changed from the rosy image in my mind to a thorn in my side.

The same walls no matter where I look and

I take the same seat as I've always took.

Now I long to be free to walk around this city, the city that for years I took for granted, the streets I've walked and the people who have talked. Before this I paid no attention

And now what I wouldn't give to leave this hellish detention

Jamie’s Responses to the above poems

Harvey’s Poem – Missing out

*Thought the use of nature imagery was interesting and clever in a poem about having to stay inside. Inspired by the line, ‘Now I feel these walls have changed from the rosy image in my mind to a thorn in my side’*

*Flower images, walls becoming overgrown.*

**Day 1** was when I noticed

Down by my skirting board.

Where the carpet was now faded,

Where grass and moss had formed.

**Day 2** I was reluctant

To check the patch once more.

But it was now becoming clear

That it was growing through the floor.

**Day 3** and it had shot up

To around about knee height.

Leaves were sprouting from its vines

Reaching towards light.

**Day 4** I started wondering,

What it was that I should do.

And when I skyped my friends that evening,

I hid it from their view.

**Day 5** I filled my watering can

And gave the plant a drink

I slept that night uneasily,

Not knowing what to think.

**Day 6** I was awoken

By the smell of spring and bloom

As the plant had now grown around the walls

And flowers filled the room.

**Day 7** I gazed out the window

At the empty parks and streets

And looked at my walls of colour and life,

Everything that I could need.

So from **day 8**  through to **day 14**

I stayed wrapped inside my room

Watering and nurturing

That flowers that did bloom.

A respite from the gloom.

**Day 15** and I heard the news

The lockdown had been lifted.

Tomorrow we could leave our homes

No longer be restricted.

I walked around the bedroom

My hand brushing along the walls,

Until my fingers grazed a petal

And it tumbled to the floor.

That night I sat up in my bed

Afraid to fall asleep

What if in the morning all was gone?

As if it were a dream.

**Day 16**, my eyelids opened,

And slowly saw the sight

Of the flowers withered on the floor,

The walls an empty white

I took up a broom and dustpan

And swept the leaves aside.

Voices floated through my window

From the people now outside.

Of people talking loudly

And laughing all around

Families playing in the parks where

Once no one made a sound.

So I soon forgot the flowers,

Their purpose now applied.

I picked up my phone to call my friends

And took a step outside.

Jamie’s response to Kelsey’s Poem – Big Change

*Inspired by the stream of consciousness style. I thought the line ‘It’s like being on a UK holiday in November’ was quite a good simile for the current situation, so took that as the starting point.*

Holiday in November

Too early for festivities, too late for hot weather

The shops are shut and there are

Padlocks on the parks

The swimming pool is drained and dry

The life guard? He’s been relieved.

Walk through empty caravans parks,

Unlit windows reflect back at you.

No sign of life inside, no barbecue smoke sliding

Along the sky line as you amble by.

Past the go-cart track and the amusement arcade

Now bereft of amusement,

Only the neon sheen of a fire exit bulb

And a wet floor sign.

So it’s back to only home that’s lit

To your family, that last family to brave it

A UK holiday in November,

A lockdown to remember.

Jamie’s response to Sophie’s Poem – Big Change

*Inspired by references to social distancing, horror movie imagery (‘This may sound like a horror movie, and we wish that was the deal’). Adversity in the face of a seemingly unstoppable force. Didn’t attempt to match the epic length though, haha.*

The car park bays mark my boundary

White lines divide me from social shaming

One slip, one mis-step

A hundred pair of eyes could turn

Twenty key workers engulf me in their hi-vis jackets.

“Caw!”

A seagull cries above me

Snapping me back to the supermarket queue.

We shuffle forward,

Eerie silence leaks from the dark clouds forming

Sweat drips from my forehead as I inch along, keeping my distance regular

At two metres apart

We are stronger together.

Jamie’s response to Sadie – Covid-19

*Really cool idea. Thought I would flip it and write from the perspective of a vaccine, which was harder than I anticipated. Decided not to try and match the strict rhyme scheme, maybe that would have helped though!*

Like everything with a power to change

I was created over time.

White lab coats swirled and whipped around

The room in which I grew

In my test tube I materialised

Was picked apart

Analysed

They tested me as quickly as possible

Balancing figures on printed paper

I needed moulding,

Tweaking,

I could not be released until I was perfect, I knew that much.

But I don’t know why I was created

I don’t need to really,

I just need to do.

And I won’t be remembered.

My test tube will be washed and put away,

Re-labelled, filed somewhere.

And those numbers scrawled on paper will be crumpled and shredded

Figures forgotten and date dismissed.

Only those white lab coats

Working tirelessly around me.

End Document

 