

In March 2020, everything changed because of the coronavirus. I did not know that March sixteenth would be the last day of in person school and the first day of quarantine. In the narrative *The Site of Memory*, Toni Morrison looks back at how her father worked many jobs to sustain his family during times of struggle. Similarly, people, places, family, and the familiar details of everyday people's lives informed and sustained me during the pandemic. In this essay, I will be writing about the topic "Reflect upon how people and places informed and sustained [me] during this pandemic."

On March 16, I was in before care at school. Mrs. Donkour, the before care provider, told me how the pandemic started in China and that it was very contagious. We had a good discussion. Later that day, Governor Mike Dewine ordered all schools to shut down. At first I was happy. In my mind, I thought school would be temporarily closed for deep cleaning. When I realized we were out for the year, I tried to embrace it as best I could. By listening to the news, I was informed about coronavirus. The news channels compared COVID-19 to the 1918 Spanish flu. That filled me with new energy and strength. The people in that era got through their pandemic so I could get through mine. A doctor that informed me was Dr. Anthony Fauci. He informed us that cloth masks were good and that we needed to stay safe during the holidays. With that news, my family stayed at home for Christmas and Thanksgiving. We still had fun. Finally, my principal kept me informed by sending out daily videos with encouragement and information about the virus. The videos also had biblical references that helped show we could get through this.

In her narrative, Toni Morrison reminisces how she was not allowed to go into her parents' garden. If I ever write a book about my experience in this pandemic, a section of the book would talk about how I was not allowed to play outside with my friends. At first, I was angry. But after my mother made me write an essay about why it wasn't safe, I then realized

how important it was to stay safe. I was sustained at home by reading and completing puzzles. The puzzles helped challenge my brain and the books helped expand my vocabulary and creativeness. I love reading, and during the pandemic I read 20 books. Books are a great source of knowledge and they keep you sustained. My favorite type of books are fiction books. Usually I get my books from the library, but the library was closed. My mom bought me books and I truly will always appreciate that. I was sustained by doing safe outdoor activities such as mini golf and walking trails. And finally, I was sustained by online church and nighttime prayer.

As a twelve year old, I never thought I would see a pandemic in my lifetime. By remaining hopeful, I was able to find information about this pandemic and be sustained along the way. In the "Site of Memory", Toni Morrison says " All water has a perfect memory and is forever trying to get back to where it was." I'm doing my best to remain sustained and ultimately get back to normal.