

## Jeet and his Lockdown Story

Jeet is a well-mannered “good boy”! A student of IICP’s Middle and Senior Academic class and all of 16 years of age, he is in Class 5. He enjoys reading stories, writing and listening to them as well! He likes dancing too! There are days when he doesn’t like to go to school. He says that even Rabindranath Tagore did not go to school, then why should he?! He believes that he will become like the great bard! But once his mother could convince hi to go to school, Jeet would become happy at once , on meeting his friends. After returning home from school, he used to get busy with completing his Homework. The call for lockdown changed his life drastically! He became home-bound! He learnt a new word, “lockdown” as he learnt other new words like “pandemic” and “social distance”. These became added to his vocabulary. His father explained to him that lockdown meant that everything – school, office, college, shops all would be closed. Jeet was thrilled at the prospect of having a long holiday!

But then he realized that lockdown meant that he would not be able to go out and meet his friends and relatives. Jeet used to chat with his favourite Arindam uncle and play with his cousin sisters. All that came to a sudden halt! Covid19 brought a rude stop to all the things that used to bring happiness to Jeet! Jeet’s sister, Tuli, also felt the brunt of it, as her movements too became restricted. Jeet longed to meet his grandfather who was ailing, but couldn’t. He listened to the news and became very angry at China for perpetrating the virus. He thought that they are a cockroach eating lot of people who have upset his daily routine. Unpardonable!

Everything became quiet! The cacophony of happy sounds from his father chatting with his uncle, his cousins playing with his sister, his mother talking to her friends – all these suddenly came to a halt! People coming together was banned. Who would have ever thought that a mere meeting of friends or family members would herald a dangerous virus! Jeet became cognizant of concepts of cleansing the environment and stopping pollution, by keeping physical distance and sanitization.

But then, life offered Jeet a huge reprieve, in the form of online classes. Jeet also learnt new things from his father whom he found at home all the time because of the lockdown. Jeet can hold the glass with his own hands and drink water. He sings along with his mother to singer NehaKakkar’s songs! He’s actually enjoying the lockdown! It’s a new life order that Jeet is experiencing! From his window, he watches people with masks and even those without! He wonders why some people would be so ignorant or maybe so callous as to not take precautions for self and the safety of others. At home, his mother is very careful with serving warmed up food and hot water to drink, in the belief that that will keep the virus at bay. The fun thing about online classes is that Jeet gets to meet his friends and his favourite teachers too, albeit virtually. So, both Jeet and his sister Ritasmitta are busy with their phones and nobody is actually stopping them with screen time! Infact now the fun quarrels between Jeet’s sister and their father for use of the phone seems like music to Jeet’s ears!

When Jeet does his online classes, the airconditioner is kept on in that room, which Jeet loves! The lockdown has also made his family keep a rabbit as a pet, because now everybody has the time to look after it and also play with it. They call their pet "Litchu". Jeet considers the rabbit as his niece and spends all his free time playing with her. He has also befriended two gentlemen, Samit and Diganta uncles, with whom he chats from his balcony. On the day when Amphan struck Kolkata, Jeet watched the trees in his colmpound actually fall off. It was a scary sight. Then, electricity went off. Jeet became depressed! What would happen..he thought! Everything around looked eerie!Jeet scrambled about in search of some light. It was a terrifying moment for Jeet when he saw something in white floating towards him. He kept his calm &guess what? That was his father in a white kurta approaching with a candle! Jeet laughed aloud! This became a favourite topic of conversation between Jeet and his father.

Jeet is happy with this new routine. He knows that he has to study, if he wants to succeed in life. Hence, he attends all his classes regularly. Jeet's cousins come to visit him sometimes. Those are special days, as his mother cooks Biryani and prawn dishes and the entire family relishes it. Jeet also paid a visit to his grandparents at ChandiTola. He was thoroughly pampered by them. It was their 50<sup>th</sup> marriage anniversary. It was a quiet celebration and because there was only Jeet present there, he could treat his grandparents with cake.

Jeet is otherwise pretty relaxed and content with how things are in his life. Just that lurking fear...will he or his family members contract Covid19 and die?

Name: Jeet Bera

Age: 16 years

870 words