

Gloria Salcido

Prof. Kristen LaFollette

HCOM 434

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In-Depth Piece: *Pandemic Recollections (a poetry series)*

How it started

New reports

Second-hand concerns

Nervous tension

It's on the move

Sports get canceled

Rising dread

Infections & deaths

It's coming closer

Call from the city

Two weeks mandated

Shelter-in-place

It's invading everywhere

Do we wear masks

Is there a cure

What do we do

It's all unknown

Bored

in the house in the house bored

scroll scroll scroll

keep yourself busy keep yourself distracted

tap tap tap

buying puzzles buying board games

type type type

school online work online

zoom zoom zoom

cameras off pajamas on

breathe breathe breathe

clear the mind try to stay sane

fidget

click

click

click

back and forth

back and forth

flip the switch

breathe

worry

worry

worry

round and round

round and round

spin the sphere

stop thinking

squeeze

squeeze

squeeze

up and down

up and down

press the button

relax

stress

stress

stress

swirl around

swirl around

turn the wheel

calm down

Lost years, lost mind

Thoughts and memories

muddled

How long has it been?

It started last year.

No--

Wait...

Three year's ago?

Oh my gosh

How did it go so fast

It started at two weeks

I thought

for sure

By September

back to normal.

It just kept going

going, going

Blurry thoughts

Foggy brain

going, going, going

I can't remember

Can't remember...

Missed birthdays

Lonely holidays

Peak

of my twenties

Gone.

Endemic(ish)

Mask on

Mask off

Movies reopen

Kids at parks

School and work

In person again

Vaxx on

Vaxx off

Less positive cases

Shorter quarantine

Death toll down

But not quite over

Norm on

Norm off

Can't really get back

To the way things were

Gotta find the new normal

Make it work, get COVID done