**Wiens\_ELA\_Grade 7-8-AVID\_Paper/Digital\_Week 5**

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Per.\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Read and Annotate.

**Neighbors create "bear hunts" for kids amid coronavirus**

By The Advocate, adapted by Newsela staff

During the week of March 23, children in one neighborhood of Lafayette, Louisiana, went on a safari in search of teddy bears. They had maps and binoculars in hand.

It's an extension of something that's occurring in other places to keep children entertained while they're out of school and sticking close to home because of the coronavirus: Placing teddy bears in street-facing windows so children can hunt them out on walks and bicycle rides through their neighborhood. Some areas in London, England, are joining in, too.

Coronavirus is a flu-like illness. It began in China and has been spreading across the globe since December 2019. Health officials have been encouraging social distancing, which means staying home and staying away from other people to help slow the spread of the virus. Many schools have shut down. Many companies are telling employees to work from home. Major sporting and entertainment events have also been canceled or postponed.

The idea for the teddy bear hunt could be based on a book called "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury.

**Spreading The Word About Teddy Bears**

In Lafayette, parents and residents got together on a neighborhood Facebook page in the beginning of March to spread the word. Soon teddy bears starting appearing in windows.

A bear is visible from a window inside a house.

Image 2. A teddy bear sits with a mask on in a window on Monday, March 23, 2020 in Lafayette, Louisiana. Photo: Brad Kemp/The Advocate

Myrtle Place resident Jaci Russo, who has three bears in her windows, said she first observed it in mid-March.

"People were putting bears in windows, flower beds, along fence lines," she said. Then they were "posting their addresses [on the neighborhood Facebook page] so people can map a route and parents can take their kids walking on a bear hunt."

And the children are serious about it, Russo said, taking paper and pens and mapping routes. Some even bring binoculars to help them hunt out the cuddly creatures.

"I love it," Russo said. "It's a great way for neighbors to help out."

Children Write Messages With Sidewalk Chalk

In the late morning, when parents in her neighborhood walk their children to school to pick up lunch, they're hunting for teddy bears, Russo said. In the afternoons, children can be seen making chalk drawings of teddy bears and uplifting phrases on driveways and sidewalks, she said. Some parents are even hanging lines in their front yards to display their children's drawings of bears.

One Oaklawn resident posted on March 23 how proud she is to live in the neighborhood. Her daughter spotted 50 teddy bears on their walk that day.

If you don't live in the area you can start something similar in your neighborhood.

Teddy bears aren't the only thing adding cheer to homes and lives in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana.

In the Sawgrass Park neighborhood in south Lafayette Parish, rainbows are showing up all over the place, even when there hasn't been a rain shower.

**Rainbows Are Also Popping Up**

Mary LeBlanc, who has two young children and another on the way, learned about the rainbows from her sister-in-law, who lives in New Orleans. She posted it on the neighborhood Facebook page. Word spread and children took out their crayons and markers to create beautiful rainbows they put in street-facing windows for a giant neighborhood I Spy game.

Children also are spreading rainbows outside, drawing them in chalk on sidewalks and driveways.

Some of the neighbors are posting their addresses on the Facebook page, inviting kids to stop by their street. Parents like LeBlanc and her husband, who are working from home during the coronavirus crisis, are taking family walks and bike rides searching out the rainbows.

"It's cheerful," LeBlanc said. "It's something to look forward to."

And who doesn't need a little cheer during these times?