

Contagious

By Fiona Kimmey

Nyla sat at the dinner table and ate her cereal. Her mother and sister were in the neighboring room, watching the TV. She looked out the window at the birds flying around, chirping happily to each other. *I wish I was a bird, She thought, so that I could see my friends.*

She finished her cereal and placed her bowl in the sink with all the other dirty dishes.

“Nyla? Nylaaaaa...” Her mother called.

“What do you need, mom?”

“We’re going out.”

“Where?”

“Get dressed.”

“Where are we going?”

“And wash your hands too!”

Nyla decided it was a waste of time to try and figure out where she was going. She went to her room and got dressed. She grabbed a couple face masks. You know, just in case. She ran out to the car, got in and slammed the door shut.

“You know you don’t need those masks,” Her sister said. “You’re overreacting to all this.”

“I can do what I want!” Nyla snapped back.

After a couple minutes they arrived at the playground. The play equipment was all closed. “Okay, go run around in

the grassy area, you two.” Nyla’s mom said.

“Yeah, hold on.” Nyla grabbed her face mask from the car. But she also spotted something else. A note. It said on it, in messy but readable handwriting;

*Put a smile on
your face.
It's contagious!*

Nyla stared at the note, thinking. *What if I could do something to help other people through this tough time? What if...*

Ding! She had an idea. She spotted a marker her sister had left in the car and drew a big smile on her face mask. Then

she walked around with it, a smile underneath as well.

“Look, dad!” A little boy pointed to Nyla. “She has a smile on her mask! I want to do that!” So, his dad took a pen he had and drew a smile on the little boy’s mask. Now there were two people with smiles on their faces!

The little boy and his father went home a few minutes later. The next day the boy asked if they could walk around their neighborhood. The father agreed and the boy took his smiling mask. A few other people saw the boy’s mask, and drew a smile on their mask.

Soon enough, the whole neighborhood had smiles on their masks! And when people went out on a walk and

took their masks, everyone was smiling.
Not only on their masks, but on their faces
too.

*The coronavirus
may be very contagious,
but do you know
what else is?
Your smile.*

The end.