

Let's Look Out for Everyone

Ock Ja Kim

This coronavirus pandemic,
The initial failure to respond
Will cause the loss of thousands of lives.

Economic crash in astronomical numbers,
People brokenhearted
By the death of family and friends.

Epidemiologists advise us
To isolate at home
Washing hands, wearing masks, and social distancing.

People self-medicate,
Drink alcohol and use drugs,
Get angry and cry.

Too much information,
Is it true, or fake news?
Until a new vaccine comes out, we protect ourselves.

Let's ask what our humanity is.
Let's look out for everyone.
Let's love our lives and love our neighbors.
Let's help our communities.
Let's support our countries.

Everybody wake up!
Beat the Covid-19!
Crisis is an opportunity to develop anew
For a better future...



Ock Ja Kim is from South Korea. She owns a Korean restaurant in Chicopee, MA, and worked as a chef for 30 years, but she is now retired. She raised three children as a single mom. She always worked two jobs and never had time for herself. Now that she has retired and her children are grown, she has more time for herself. She has been attending the Ludlow Area Adult Learning Center at Holyoke Community College. She wants to learn English so she will be able to communicate with her grandchildren and finish college.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. Describe the arc of the poem. Where does the poet start, what aspects of the pandemic does she address, and how does she end?
2. Notice the author's use of punctuation and capital letters.
3. In the 6th verse, "Let's" is a contraction of "Let us." What does it mean? Write some sentences using "Let's" to describe what you think we should do in response to the pandemic.