

Why Can't I go Outside?



By Emily Merrifield
Illustrated by Ciara Long



**This book is dedicated to the key workers
who are working hard to keeping this country
running during the Coronavirus outbreak.**

**A special dedication to the children, parents
and staff of Atelier Nursery.**

‘Why Can’t I Go Outside?’

**First self published as an E-Book in 2020
by Emily Merrifield and Ciara Long.**

Text ©Emily Merrifield 2020

Illustrations ©Ciara Long 2020

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**I look outside my window;
It's a very sunny day.
I wonder why mum and dad
won't let me out to play.**



**I ask my mum politely,
“Why must we all hide?
Is there a fearsome dragon
scaring everyone inside?”**



**“Or a great big greedy monster,
who stuffs food into his gut?**

**Is that why all the restaurants
around the world are shut?”**



“Perhaps a giant dinosaur
is in hospital, feeling grey!
Is that why daddy & his friends,
work hard every single day?”





“Suppose a group of jewel thieves

needed a disguise.

**Is that why lots of people
are wearing masks outside?”**



**“Or maybe...” I tell mum,
“a great, gigantic troll
had a ‘little’ accident
and took all the toilet roll!”**





* “I think a very bossy alien,
* who can’t stand any sort of grime,
* is the reason that we wash our hands
* for twenty seconds at a time!” *





Mum smiles, and she says,

“It’s not quite like that.”

Then, she sits me on her knee

and we have a little chat.



**"We wash our hands a lot,
to keep us safe from a virus.
This helps to stop the germs
that want to get inside us."**



**"People are buying lots of things
because they are feeling scared.**

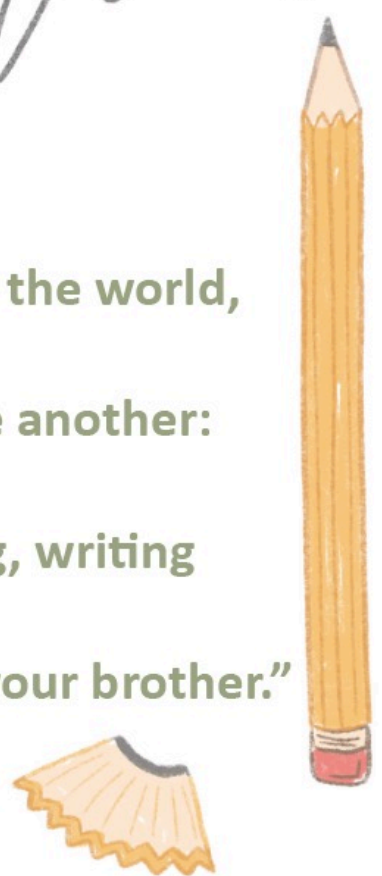


**But we can help by sharing,
and showing them we care."**

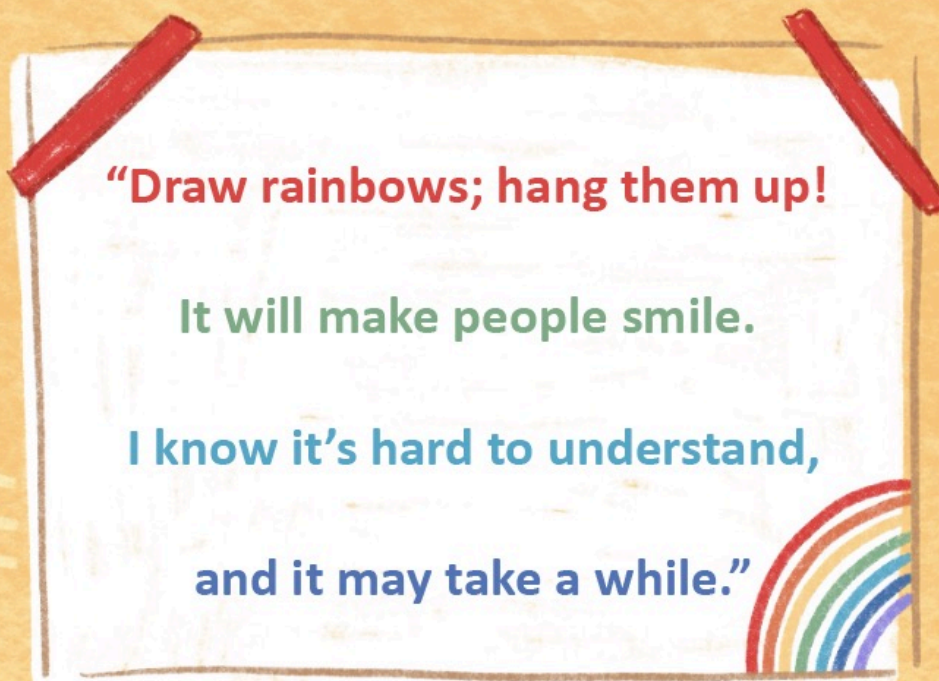


The background is a warm orange color. It features stylized brown leaves and branches. Scattered throughout are white stars and double-slash marks (//) that suggest motion or clapping. Several hands are illustrated: a pair of dark-skinned hands in red sleeves at the top; a pair of light-skinned hands on the left; a pair of light-skinned hands on the right, one with a blue ring; a pair of light-skinned hands in blue patterned sleeves at the bottom left; and a pair of dark-skinned hands in green striped sleeves at the bottom right. Some hands are shown in a clapping motion.

"Daddy and his friends are working hard
to help people get well.
Then to say thank you,
on Thursdays, we clap and yell!"



**“We can help save the world,
by supporting one another:
drawing, painting, writing
with your sister and your brother.”**



The background is a lush, detailed illustration of a garden. It features a variety of plants, including large dark green leaves, smaller sprigs with white flowers, and clusters of red, orange, and blue flowers. A light-colored, dashed line winds through the garden, suggesting a path. The overall style is whimsical and hand-drawn.

“But we’ll be together again,

in our favourite place.

Until then we can use the garden

to have a relay race!”



"So, wash your hands and stay indoors;

this will not last forever.

**This virus will go away,
and we will beat it together."**

This E-book is available to download for FREE.
A donation to either one or two of the charities we have chosen to support at this time would be very much appreciated. Refuge, who help support women, men and children escaping domestic violence, and UNICEF, who have been working with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to help limit the spread of COVID-19 by providing essential supplies to healthworkers. A QR code to Refuge and UNICEF can be found below.

REFUGE



UNICEF



Just open up the camera on your smart phone and point it at the QR code for the charity you'd like to donate to and it'll take you directly to the page. You can either save, screenshot, photograph, and send your QR code to family and friends on WhatsApp, text or email. It couldn't be easier.

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