



Connecting Through Poetry

Whenever we read, listen to, or view anything we can enhance our appreciation and deepen our understanding of it by making connections. Today we'll do this after listening to a poem in a video you may have seen on social media lately. It's called "The Great Realisation".

Instructions

- Head over to <http://www.probablytomfoolery.com/> and prepare to watch the video titled "The Great Realisation". It's only four minutes long so it's easy to watch more than once
- For your first viewing just see what sort of impression the poem makes on you. Did you like it? What did it make you think? What did it make you feel? How would you describe the poem and video in one or two words to someone who hasn't seen it?
- For your second viewing think about making connections. Here are a series of questions you can use to get you thinking:
 - Can you personally relate to anything expressed in the poem and video?
 - How did you feel about life before the shutdown?
 - How do you feel during it?
 - What do you imagine life will be like after it's all over?
 - Is any of what the poet expresses similar to your experiences, thoughts, and feelings. How so?
 - Does anything in this poem remind you of other things you've read about or watched or seen happening in the world? How are they connected? How are they similar or different?

After thinking about these questions, put your thoughts and feelings into words. You can do this through discussion with family members and/or by writing. These processes force you to deepen and clarify your understanding of ideas, yours or someone else's.

Materials required

- Device or other tools for writing
- Device with Internet access for watching the video

Information for parents

Parents could:

- allow their child to talk with them about the poem and video while keeping the questions in mind. Talking helps students process their thoughts and feelings. It also helps them develop critical thinking about what they see, read, and learn
- offer to read what their child wrote for further discussion