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Pandemic Paranoia and Proximity: A Transformation

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Pandemic Paranoia and Proximity: A Transformation

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New Jersey Council of Teachers of English

A new school year

Grades Classrooms

Teachers Lessons

Challenges

Altered schedules

Textbooks sealed and shunned

Classrooms depersonalized

Insidious threats

From unseen aerosols

Unsocial atmosphere

Untraced contacts

Atypical behavior

Waves, not hugs

Voices commanding

"Keep Six Feet Apart"

Unnatural Separation

Clear viscous gel

For sanitizing

Protecting

Insulating

Assuring

An ominous environment

Pandemic Paranoia

And

Proximity

School and society

Based in reality

Intense toil

Risks outweigh rewards

Social Distancing

No longer The practice

A young boy

And a young maiden

Must be mandated

To maintain

During middle school High school

Dances Proms

Study sessions Dates

Distancing now including

Classroom seating

Hallway travels

Greetings

Inquiry

Casual chatter

Heightened emotions

Attempted outreach

Disjointed Engagement

Dispirited outlook

Human touch Removed

High fives Shunned

Fist bumps Prohibited

Hugs On high alert

Robotic students

Masked

Gloved

Shielded

Separated

Shunned

```
Off limits
Lockers
Sealed tightly
       With firmness
and precision
Hallways transformed
       To highways
Divided
       Controlled
              Unidirectional
Lessons
       Hybrid
Virtual
       Internet Intervention
              Zoom
                     Meet
              Google
       Chat Box
Electronic education
       Technological diversification
Classes condensed
       Constrained
       Compartmentalized
Separation
       Space Imposition
Sirens in homes
       Alluring distractions
              Minecraft
       Fortnite
              Pokemon
       Roblox
              Instagram
       Snapchat
```

WhatsApp

Tik Tok Tik Tok

Go Guardian

Register Monitor

Trace Track

Learners challenged

Procedures transformed

Redefined

Repurposed

Relied upon

Focus

Brevity

Clarity

Videos

Instructional

Investigational

Inspirational

Legislated Separation

Devastation

Emotional Incarceration

Uncharacteristic Avoidance

Simplicity

Now complexity

Breathing regulations

Stress intensification

Unsolved enigmas

Daily challenges

To SEL

PBL

Group activity

After-school clubs

New lesson designs

Activities Postponements

Cancellations Expectations

Of persistence

Of continuance

Procedures to adapt

To follow

To obey

Challenges to overcome

Frustration to mount

Scapegoats to seek

Searches conducted

For targets

Frustration

Ventilation

Heroes reimagined

From typical categories

Essential service

In classrooms

Teachers Aides

Custodians Administration

In districts

In homes And communities

Bus Drivers Students

Parents/Guardians

Methodical inversion

Of Disney Maslow

And more

Constantly dire Hope Losing luster Nature separated From nurture Uncommonality Unfamiliarity Compromise Concession **Social Convulsion** Classrooms reflecting community Lessons losing touch With humanity Society shunning Sensitivity Pandemic Paranoia And Proximity School mirroring society A transformation Based In reality