

# A COVID Birthday

A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Book  
Word Count: 604

## Connections

### Writing

Imagine you were looking forward to a special event and your plans had to change. Write about how you could enjoy the event in a new way.

### Art

Adriana's family made a crown for her to help her feel special. Make a crown or a sign for someone to help them feel special.

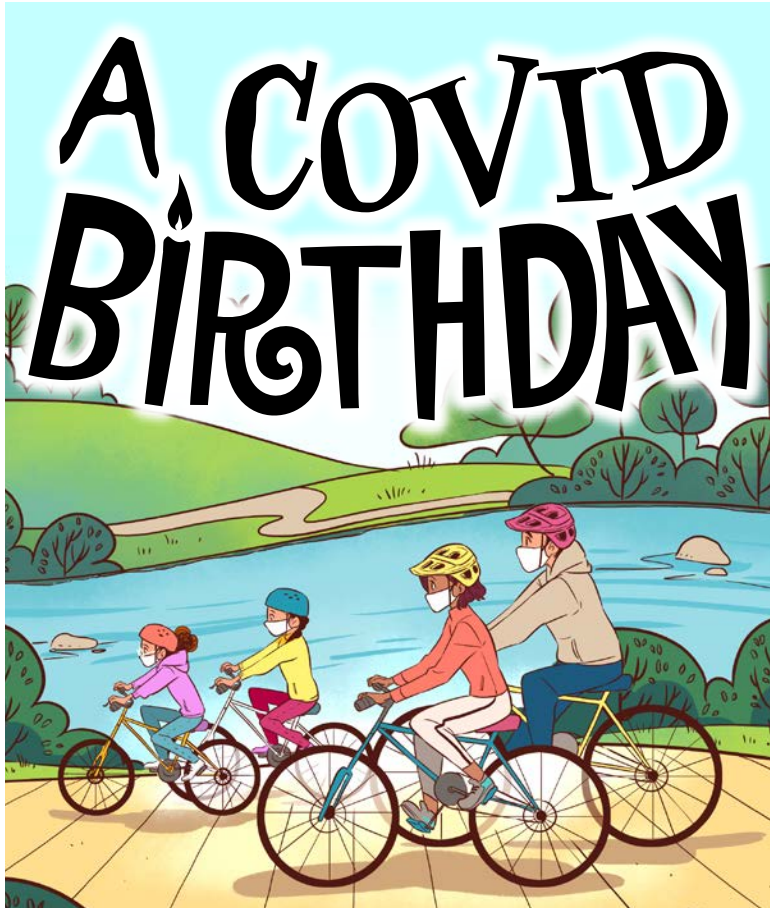
**Reading A-Z**

Visit [www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)  
for thousands of books and materials.

LEVELED BOOK • M

# A COVID BIRTHDAY





Written by Iva Valentino  
Illustrated by Lissy Marlin

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

### Focus Question

What was the main problem in the story, and how was the problem solved?

### Words to Know

celebrate  
coronavirus  
decorated

obstacle course  
social distancing  
spread

A COVID Birthday  
Level M Leveled Book  
© Learning A-Z  
Written by Iva Valentino  
Illustrated by Lissy Marlin

All rights reserved.

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

### Correlation

#### LEVEL M

Fountas & Pinnell	L
Reading Recovery	19
DRA	24



Adriana couldn't stop thinking about her birthday party.

"Can I have a backyard party?" Adriana asked. "I want to make a giant **obstacle course** for my friends."

"Ten is a big year. That would be a great way to **celebrate!**" Mom agreed.

"Let's see if Grandma and Grandpa can come for a visit," Dad suggested.

For the next few weeks, Adriana was in party-planning mode. She and her older sister, Corinna, planned the obstacle course. Adriana dreamed about a cake from her favorite bakery.





About a week before her birthday, Adriana woke up to her parents' worried voices.

"Is everything okay?" asked Adriana.

"**Coronavirus** is in our own town," Corinna mumbled, her mouth full of cereal.

It made Adriana nervous that people in her town were getting COVID-19, the sickness caused by coronavirus.

"**Social distancing** is important," said Dad. "That means staying away from others. It will help stop the **spread** of the virus."

Mom nodded. "It's just not safe for groups of people to get together right now," she said.

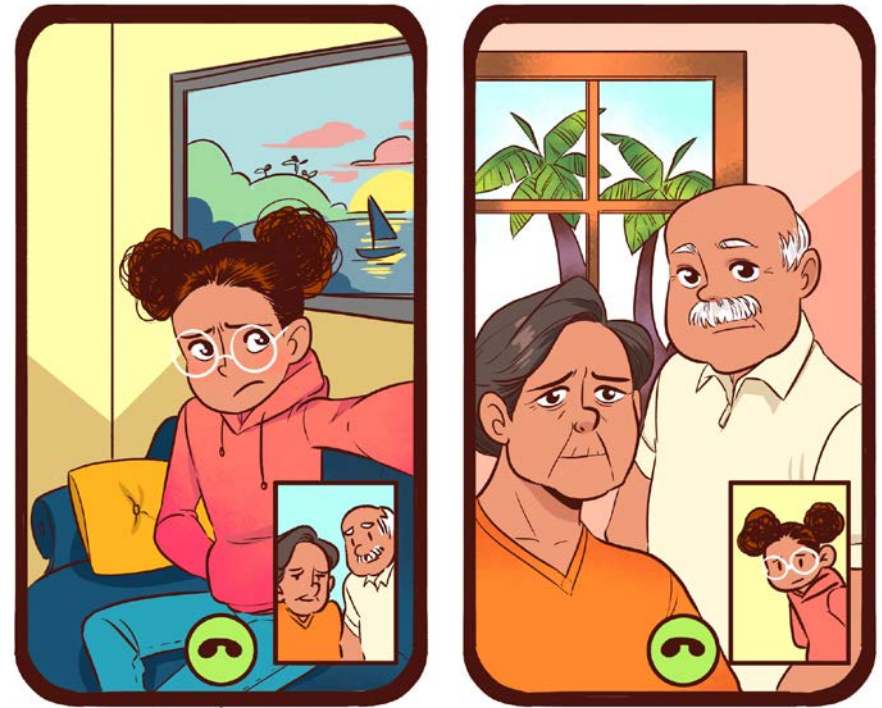
A sinking feeling spread to Adriana's stomach.

"Like parties?" she gulped.

"I'm sorry, Adriana. We'll have your party once it's safe for people to get together again," Mom said.



The next day, Adriana started using the computer to do schoolwork from home. Mom started working from home, too. Dad still had to go to work. He was a nurse. Many restaurants and stores in town shut their doors.



Everyone was staying home. Adriana wasn't allowed to visit any of her friends.

More cases of COVID-19 were being reported each day. Grandma and Grandpa called to say they didn't think it was safe for them to travel.

Adriana kept busy by doing her schoolwork on the computer. She still went on bicycle rides with her family. They wore masks on the rides. Wearing masks helped stop the spread of the sickness.

No one had talked about her birthday in a while.

*Did they even remember?* Adriana wondered.



On Adriana's birthday, Mom, Dad, and Corinna burst into her room. "Happy birthday!" they yelled. Mom placed a homemade glittery paper crown on Adriana's head. Corinna played the Happy Birthday song on her kazoo while Mom and Dad sang.

"How about a special birthday breakfast? Chocolate chip pancakes?" asked Dad.





After breakfast, Mom glanced at her phone. “We’ll have to open presents later. It’s time for the big surprise!” she giggled.

“What big surprise?” Adriana asked.

Adriana followed her family out the front door.



They had hung up a bright banner and tied balloons to the porch and bushes. On the lawn, Mom’s rocking chair was draped in a purple sheet and **decorated** with pink bows.

“It’s the birthday throne!” announced Corinna.

Adriana sat down and suddenly felt very special.

*Beep! Beep!* Loud honks had Adriana on the edge of her seat. A long row of cars moved slowly down her street! Happy birthday signs hung on the cars. Her friends' happy faces smiled through the car windows. Dance music played loudly.



It was a totally awesome birthday parade! The row of cars looped around the block several times. Except for Grandma and Grandpa, everyone was there, even her teacher.

After the parade was over, Mom suggested they all go inside for cake.



“It’s chocolate!” Adriana exclaimed when Dad carried the homemade cake to the table.

“There is one more surprise before you blow out the candles,” said Mom. She brought her tablet to the table. Soon, Grandma and Grandpa’s faces were on the screen. Adriana blew out the candles as everyone sang.

Adriana thought this had turned out to be one of her best birthdays yet.



## Glossary

<b>celebrate</b> ( <i>v.</i> )	to do something special to honor an event (p. 3)
<b>coronavirus</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	any of a group of viruses that cause breathing problems and other sicknesses (p. 5)
<b>decorated</b> ( <i>v.</i> )	added color or an ornament to something (p. 12)
<b>obstacle course</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a race or course in which people or other animals crawl under, climb over, and in other ways get around objects placed in their way (p. 3)
<b>social distancing</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the act of staying away from other people in order to keep a sickness from spreading (p. 6)
<b>spread</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the growth of something so it affects more people or covers a larger area (p. 6)