

Transcript of Interview with Emily by Clinton P. Roberts

Interviewee: Emily

Interviewer: Clinton P. Roberts

Date: 05/29/2020

Location (Interviewee): Blanchard, OK

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Abstract: [from item description] This is an interview from May 29th 2020 with five-year-old Emily of rural Oklahoma about COVID-19. She talks about her doll she named "Corona Barbie" in which she used a high neck dress to cover the doll's mouth like a mask. Emily also talks about missing family vacations, missing school, and especially missing her teacher Mrs. Looper. Growing up in a rural area, she was most excited to be able to share videos of her chickens hatching via Facebook Messenger Kids during the pandemic. Consent for this interview is given by her mother in the recording. Photograph included that inspired the interview is of the actual "Corona Barbie" mentioned in the interview. The photograph was taken on March 16th, 2020. Submitted for the #ruralvoices collection. Contributed by Clinton P. Roberts, curatorial intern for Arizona State University, HST 580. #HST580 #ASU

CR: Emily, how old are you?

E: Five.

CR: Five? So, I noticed that you had this doll. What's the name of this doll?

E: Flexie

CR: Flexie? What did you call her when, when you put this outfit on her?

E: Corona Barbie.

CR: Well, that's funny. Why did why did that come to your mind? Did you think of Corona Barbie? Because it's something you'd heard before.

E: No, I just put a mask on.

CR: Mask on? Is that something people do now? They put masks on.

E: Yeah.

CR: Why do they put masks on?

E: Cause of the corona virus.

CR: Is that kind of scary?

E: Yeah.

CR: Yeah? If you do- have you seen people wear masks?

E: Yes.

CR: What kind of masks do they wear?

E: [indiscernible]

CR: Do what now?

E: Just regular and I don't know.

CR: Do you ever- do you, do you ever wear a mask? Have you worn a mask yet?

E: Yeah.

CR: Yeah. Was it easy to do or was it kind of difficult?

E: That one I could barely breath in.

CR: Yeah, sometimes it's kind of hard, huh?

E: Mm hmm.

CR: Yeah. Do you think like people wearing masks, that's kind of weird?

E: Mm hmm.

CR: Yeah. What does the mask do?

E: It keeps from getting corona virus.

CR: It keeps you from getting what?

E: Corona virus.

CR: Is that what like the mask does, it just it helps people?

E: Yeah.

CR: So is that one of the things you thought about with Barbie?

E: Yeah.

CR: Is her having a mask so she would be protected too?

E: Yeah.

CR: So when you hear like things like the Coronavirus does that seem like some kind of big thing that's everywhere. What kind of thing is it?

E: A big thing.

CR: What other things do you think about when you hear the word Coronavirus?

E: I don't know.

CR: Do you do you hear adults talk about it a lot?

E: Mm hmm. Yeah.

CR: Do you ever wonder sometimes what it means?

E: No.

CR: No? It just seems like something adults worry about?

E: Yeah.

CR: Does- did the Barbie seem like something that you did because you just kind of wanted to do stuff that adults were doing? Or did it seem like something that you were afraid Barbie was gonna get Corona?

E: [Emily laughs] Both.

CR: Both? [Clinton laughs] So, if you were going to tell yourself a story later in life when you're an adult, what would you tell yourself about this time when Coronavirus?

E: I don't know.

CR: You don't know. What would be something you'd want yourself to know about what you did during this time.

E: I don't know.

CR: You don't know. Would you want your future self to remember about Coronavirus Barbie?

E: Mmm, yeah.

CR: Yeah.

E: If can't break her, I will keep her.

CR: You'll keep her? You going to keep her in her mask?

E: Not in her mask.

CR: No?

E: In some of her clothes, I like her in.

CR: Yeah. So is that the kind of thing that that you thought about when you you missed school? Because- Did you did you get to finish school this year?

E: No.

CR: What- Why did you not get to finish school?

E: Because of corona virus. Why do I have to keep saying this?

CR: Well it's just part of what we're talking about. It's just the Coronavirus itself. Did you miss school?

E: Yeah. I miss Mrs. Looper.

CR: Yeah. School is pretty fun, huh?

E: Yeah.

CR: Did you did you think about you know, maybe like this would only take a week or so. And then it seemed like it went a long time. Huh?

E: Yeah.

CR: Are you excited about going back to school next year?

E: Uh huh.

CR: Are you hoping this will all be over so you can do that? What kind of message would you want to tell to your friends that got to miss school too? And you hadn't seen them since then?

E: I don't know.

CR: You don't know?

E: I'll see them at graduation.

CR: Oh, yeah. What kind of event is that?

E: Next year, I think.

CR: Oh, yeah. So you'll get to see your friends next year school, huh? Okay, is there anything else you want to tell me about school

E: Not really.

CR: Tell me about some of the things you missed out on. You said you missed out on vacation.

E: Yeah.

CR: Well, what did- some of the things that you did instead? Since you were stuck at home, did you do other things? That- Did you find other ways to talk to your friends? Did you find other ways to message them or to communicate with your friends?

E: Yes, no, maybe?

CR: [Clinton laughs] So-

E: Facebook Messenger.

CR: Facebook Messenger, like the one for kids? Is that a cool way to like talk to people when you're kind of stuck in the house?

E: [nods head]

CR: Yeah. Is not as good as going to school though. Is it?

E: No.

CR: No. So if you were going to talk about things you missed, it's really not as good you know, to do those things but it was better than nothing right? Did you get to do anything at home that was special that you want to tell your friends about? You, You were going to talk about-

E: Yes.

CR: -your chickens, huh?

E: Yeah. Chicken videos.

CR: You made chicken videos?

E: Mm hmm.

CR: What did you want your friends to see about?

E: Hatching eggs.

CR: Oh, yeah, was that something you would have told them in person if it wasn't for the Coronavirus?

E: Yeah.

CR: Yeah.

E: Tonight I want to make a video about how my chickens were. And, no, not like that. Maybe on summertime.

CR: Yeah, yeah.

E: Maybe I'll do that one at summertime, but other than serama showing video.

CR: Was there anything else you can think of you missed because of the corona virus?

E: Disneyland and the beach and Louisiana.

CR: Yeah.

E: And the ghost beaches.

CR: So you had you had trips planned that you didn't get to do?

E: Yeah.

CR: Yeah. So you think you'll get to do those later?

E: Hmm, yeah.

CR: Maybe?

E: I guess it could be [indiscernible]

CR: Yeah. Okay. Is there anything else you can think of?

E: No.

CR: No? Okay. Well, thank you, Emily. This is Clinton Roberts, Arizona State University, HST 580. Thank you.