

DYSTOPIA

NOW



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THIS

is

the

YEAR

Poetry Anthology

Tiny Cingoz

COVID-19

Covid-19 dont be so mean
Go away to another team
Happiness is going down the stream
You've made us ban hugs and kisses for one cup of tea
Saving our family is our priority
So please covid-19 don't be so mean
we all wish to be free
Your damage is done
So run run run
We're all crying on the floor
we can't take no more
You should say thank you to the NHS for cleaning up your
mess
I'm telling you what you've done
So now you should move on
The world has been put behind bars
We can't hug can't kiss can only miss
The future of loved ones is at risk
So we ask you nicely
Please covid-19 don't be so mean

Eunice Baya

a LOVE LETTER to MUSIC

When the days are dark,
you comfort me,
you grab ahold of me and tell me I'm free now.
I'm in a place where I can be myself.
When I cry you wipe my tears and tell me to breathe.
To let out all these emotions my world can't take.
You tell me one day people will understand me
and they will see me.
I will be loved and appreciated.

Your love is so desirable and classy.
You make me move oh so slowly and carefree.
I let the words devour me and take control,
they take control and cleanse me.
You and I become one
until you and I are nothing
but in the air,
my mind,
the room,
all that the universe allows us to be.
I let it teach me.
How to be...
Raw.Real.Free.
Let my mind flow,
let the blossoming grow,
let the emptiness die and replace it with everything.
Let my lungs take in...everything.

Your heartbreak hurts and makes me hate my world.
I stay awake until I can't.
Because if I try,
Then I get stuck in my mind
And I go over:
The horrible memories,
The dark places,
The haunted part of me.
I cry and cry and find comfort in pain.
I get numb and drown in you and the sounds around me.
Everything becomes slow
And when i try to reach out for help,
No ones there.
So my mind and body... shuts down.

But then,

Frank Ocean and Chanel hold me,
He says it's ok to feel.

Arctic Monkeys and 505 enter,
And Alex says it's ok to be vulnerable.

Tyler, The Creator laughs,
He says try and enjoy life.

And Solange gracefully says love yourself.

"Everyone should have access to a good internet connection so that if you're oppressed in whatever way, you have that access to creative content. It's around discovering identity at a young age and how that identity intersects with a society that has this history and this baggage."

Youth Worker

Florence Hellier

LIFE in LOCKDOWN

"Life in Lockdown" is a dystopian book I've read
I wish it could be more utopian instead
In dystopian books, something bad always happens
Society crumbles and then it flattens

I guess this is now my life

Millions of people using Zoom everyday
Zoom creators must be having parties
saying "cheers" and "hooray"
That is though, if they can anyway

We can't see friends or family
What does the virus want us to be?
Washing our hands 24/7
Tisn't much fun
I bet that 0.1% of germs must be in heaven
Oh I wish life in Lockdown could be fun and exciting
I guess not now - no-one can be kind and inviting
Lockdown life has not been that great at all
We can't even go see beautiful places
like Paris or some amazing waterfall

This whole disaster will be a sad memory in a few years
But for now let's live our lives and hold back our tears
This will be a good story to tell our families in the future
Or spread the word and become a future preacher
In a hundred years people will find this boring
And will probably drop their heads on their school desks and
start snoring
But those who lived through this will know and will hate
What the Coronavirus did to us
It made us isolate

"Life in Lockdown" - have you read it too?
How did you find it?
In this dystopia what would you do?

Israt Abdur

INVISIBLE

Waking up to begin the day
sighing loudly at the sight of rain
lockdown established, now early May
need to end solitude, but from going you must refrain

Chaos emerged with dominating fear in households
consumed by stress and evident concern
asthmatics and seniors fearing the 'common cold'
and with desperation to God they return

to pray for the vulnerable and the people lost
requesting temporary immortality at unknown cost
and often clinging onto medicinal remedies
suggested by social media's portrayed recipes, as
scared of their probable contaminated breath
they poured hot water in their bodies to battle the threat.

Meanwhile I looked up at the clouds
once invigilators of the London crowds
moving gradually over the empty towns
avoiding the cries, the indelible frowns
or the agoraphobic mental breakdowns
quickly snatching people's crowns
as they no longer ruled over their own lives
an invisible criminal without knives
intruding people's bodies and minds
we felt powerless, as though we were blind.

We relied on the minimal contact to keep us sane and
to escape from the parental arguments we say
'everything will be alright, I just need to be brave'
a mantra to repeat to prevent nightmares of a grave
even as the body temperature rose
a constant cough, with a runny nose
I repeated assuring words in a whisper
any louder and I'll be heard from my sister.

*"The literal architecture of the spaces
people in Lambeth and Southwark are
living in has meant that young people's
worlds have been so much more
constricted, so much more constrained."*

Educationist

Sarah Singh

MONOTON

The ennui of the moment dissolved me for the day,
The sinking weariness that killed me,
ceased to melt away.
Monoton rode past me every minute,
dressed to the very shimmers' limit, for he was:
Clad in veil, gemmed afghans,
bangles adorned his wrists.
The smug grin flew from end to end,
finished in a nasty twist.
Monoton sneered at me to canter past on his mangy
little mare,
And cared as little for me as of a fly,
so stayed not to see my fare.
But again he returned, after I cried,
and smirked at me to be just as snide;
I was stuck in a circle of petty stinging quarrels,
the only console was a stack of books,
a shelf of books,
a room of books,
They were my life and soul.
The circle was never- ending,
with Monoton chasing me and pelting I with taunts.
Until it did end,
and Monoton died.

Aaliyah Weekes

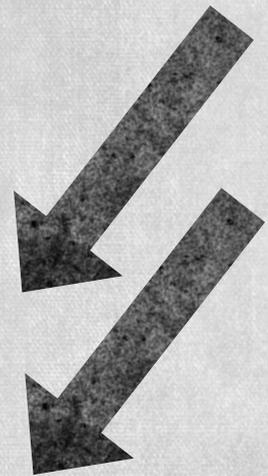
THIS YEAR

Dear people of 2050,

This year was not so great, there was a virus worldwide
This year the government said how many people died not survived
This year we couldn't see family
This year my friends couldn't hang with me
This year the hospitals were full of sick people
This year felt like climbing a steep hill
This year everyone went into panic
This year happiness started to vanish
This year we had to stay inside
This year everyone's brains were fried
This year I made it out alive
And next year my smile will be so wide

From Aaliyah

From the year 2020



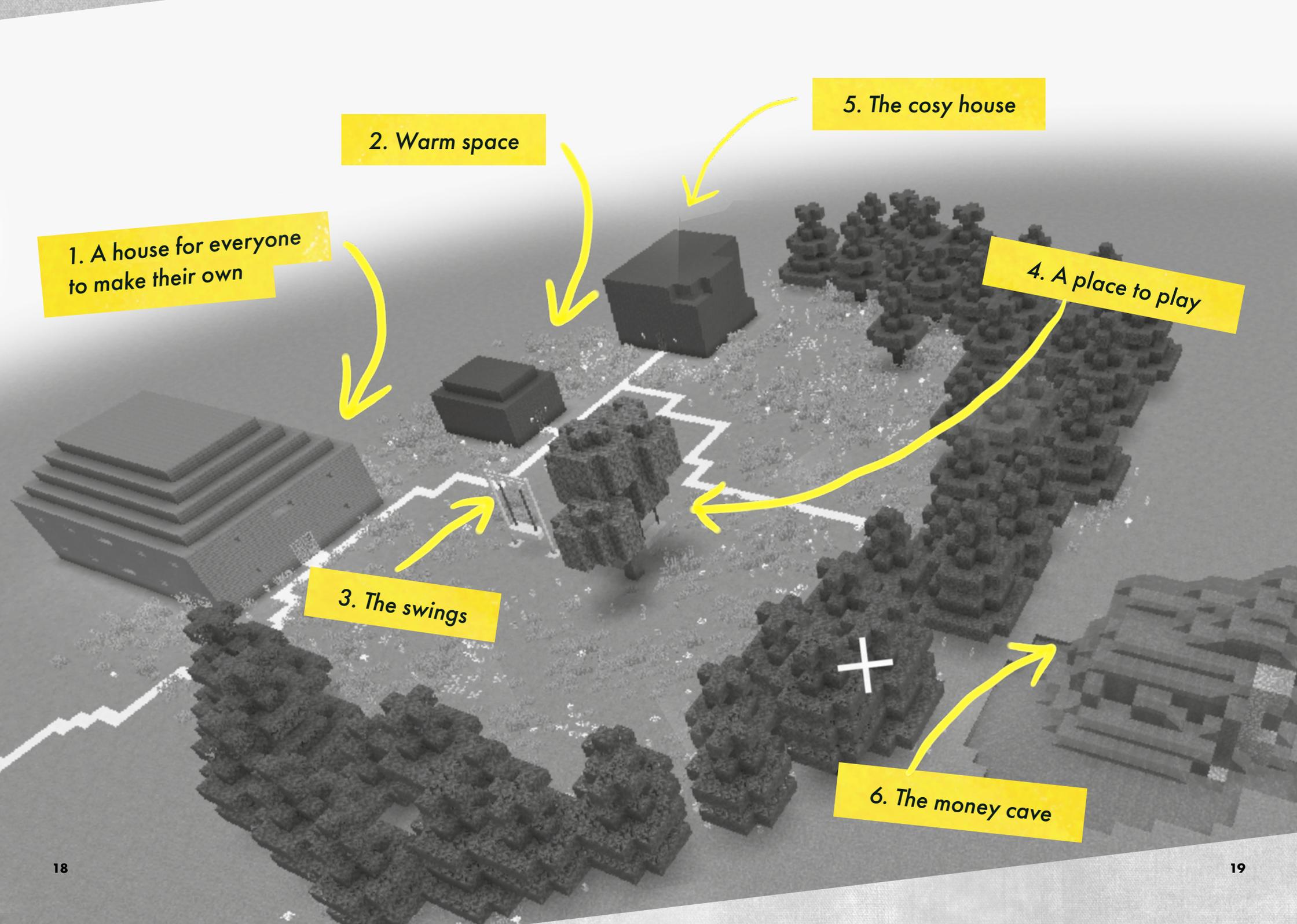


DREAM

+

LOCKDOWN

Minecraft Build



1. A house for everyone to make their own

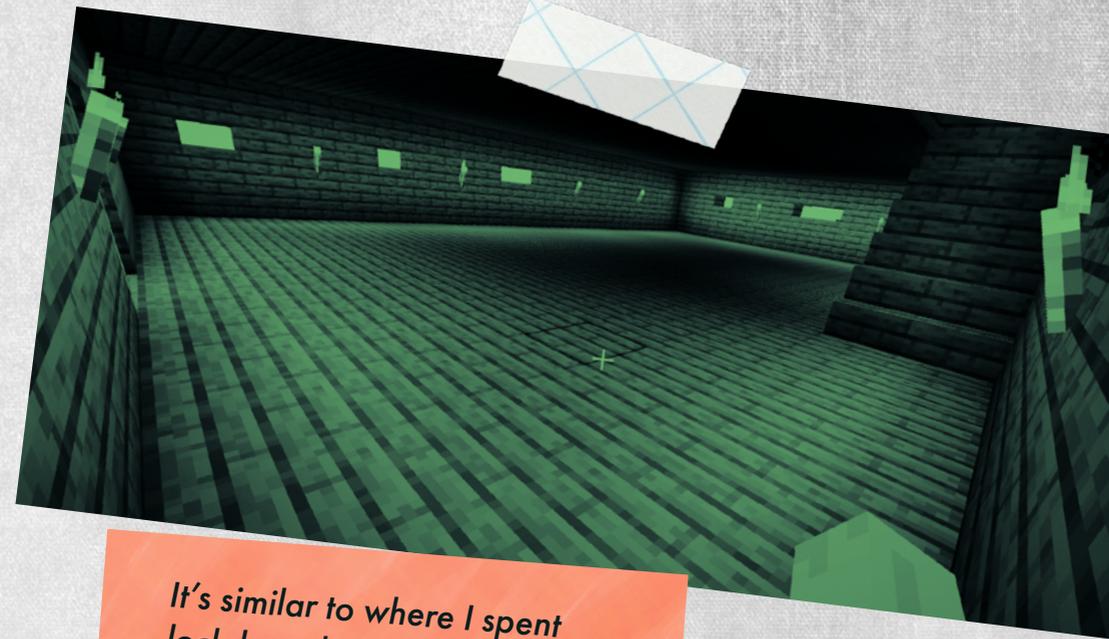
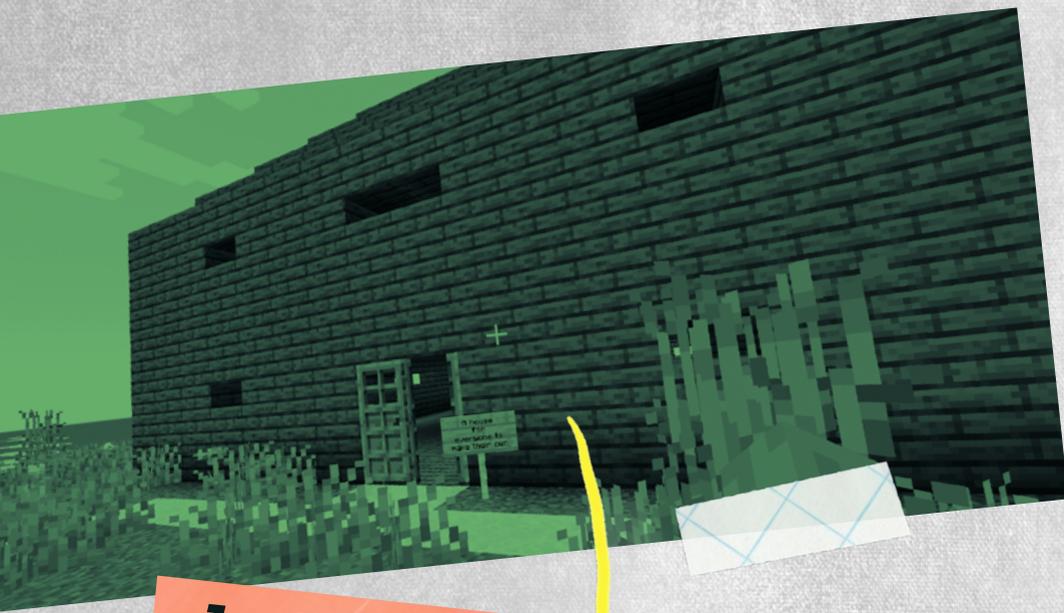
2. Warm space

5. The cosy house

4. A place to play

3. The swings

6. The money cave

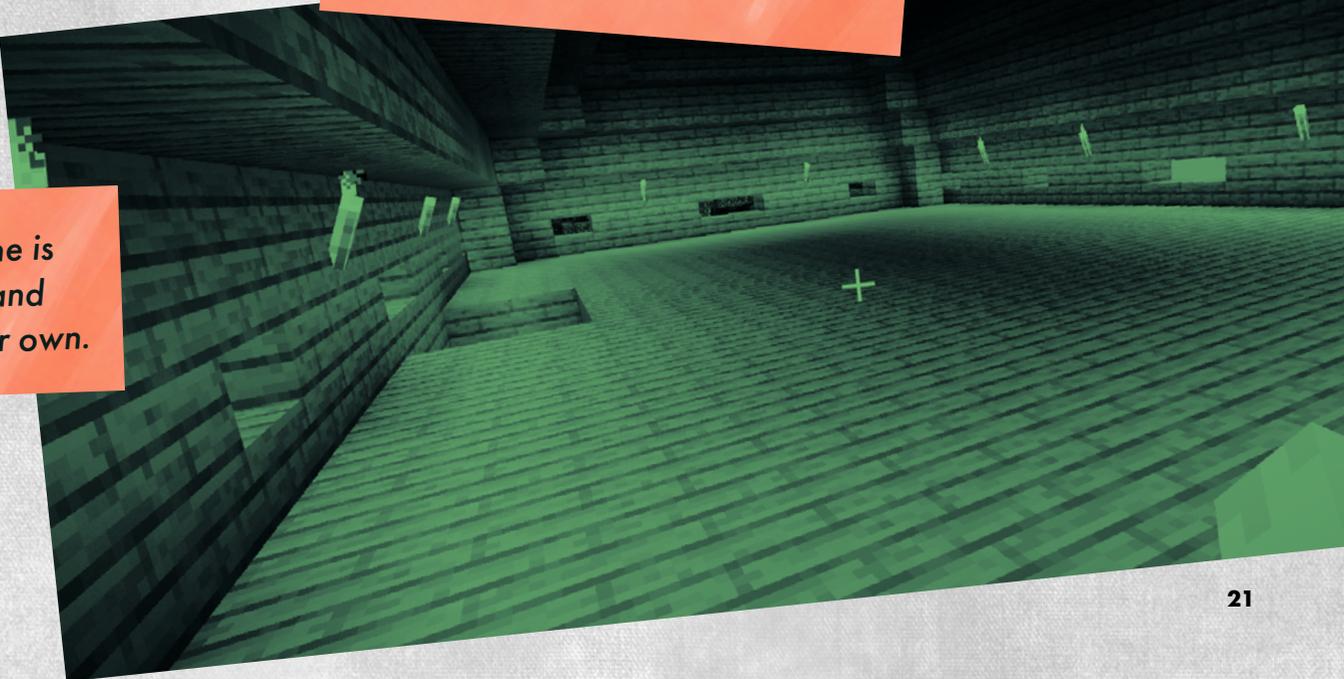


1. A house for everyone to make their own

It's similar to where I spent lockdown because it's empty, there's nothing to do - but it's different, because there's more space here.



It's a home where everyone is welcome, they can come and take a bit and make it their own.

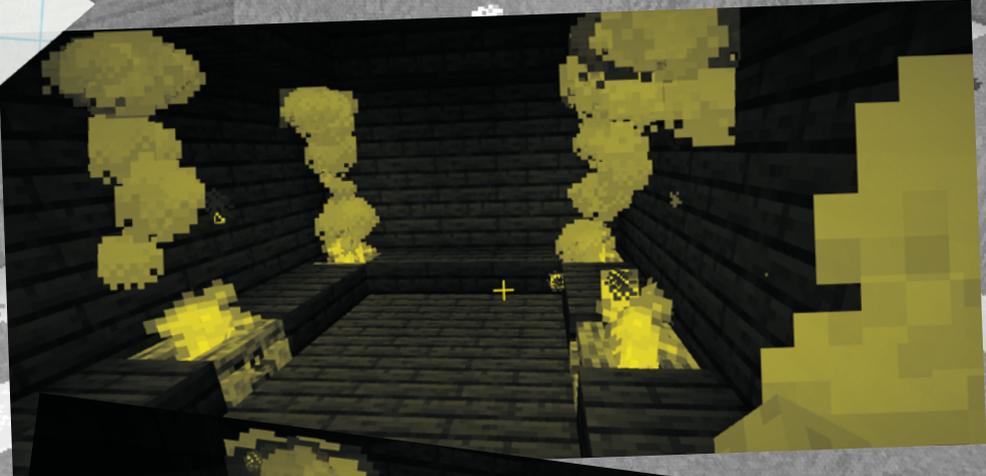


Designed by Taj

Designed by Malachi

It's freezing!
So this is a place
to get warm.

2. Warm space





"It was great to have a place to play and see our friends again after lockdown"

3. The swings



4. A place to play



"Young people need to see a safe space to be. They need to feel that there's people looking out for them in a community"

Youth Worker

5. The cosy house

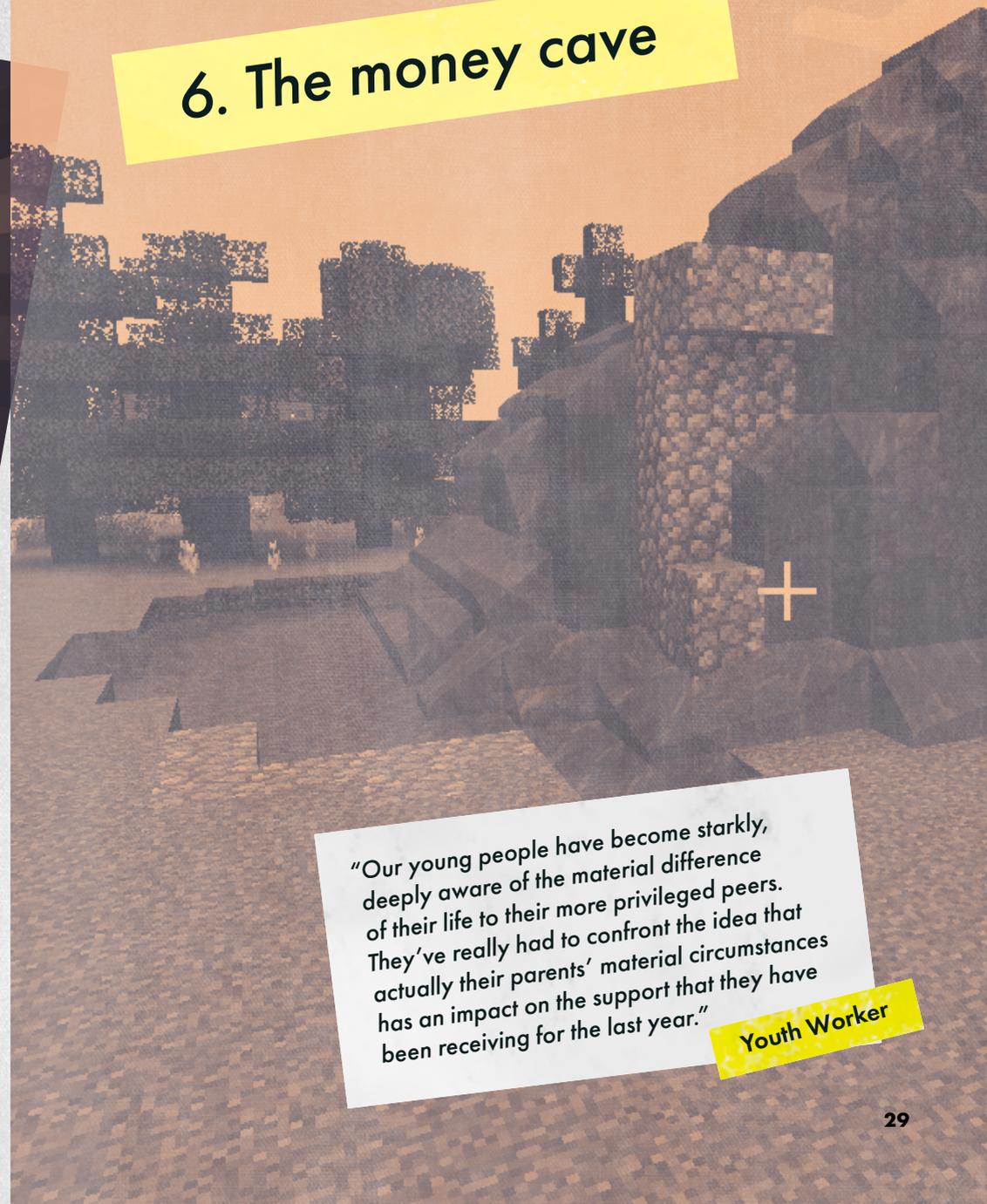
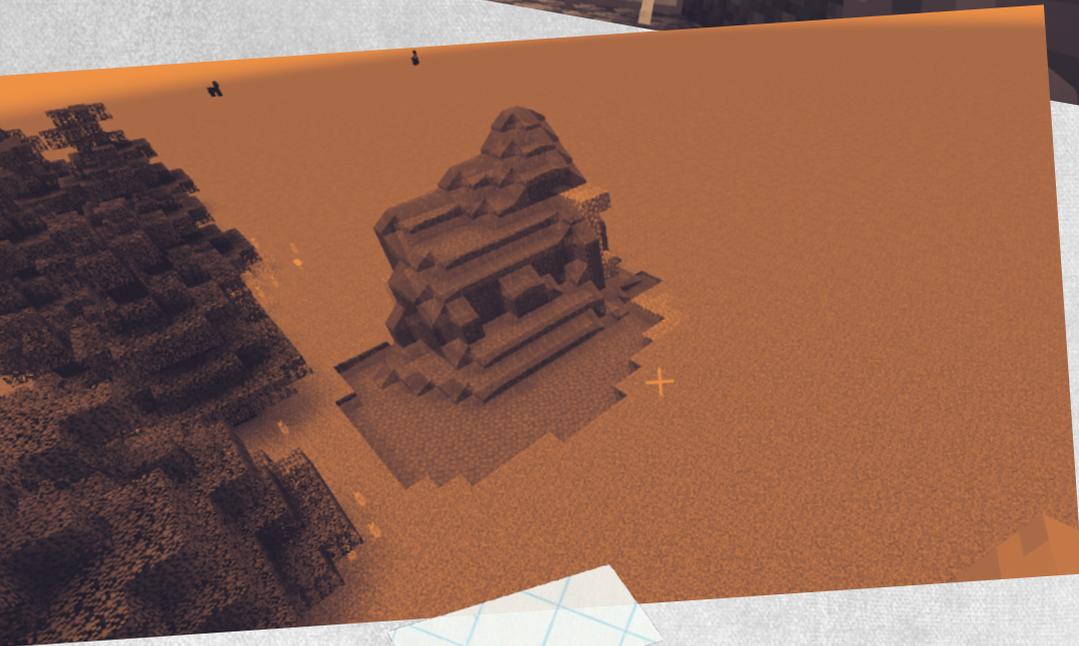
This is a place for people to rest if they're ill with covid.



Designed by Malachi



6. The money cave

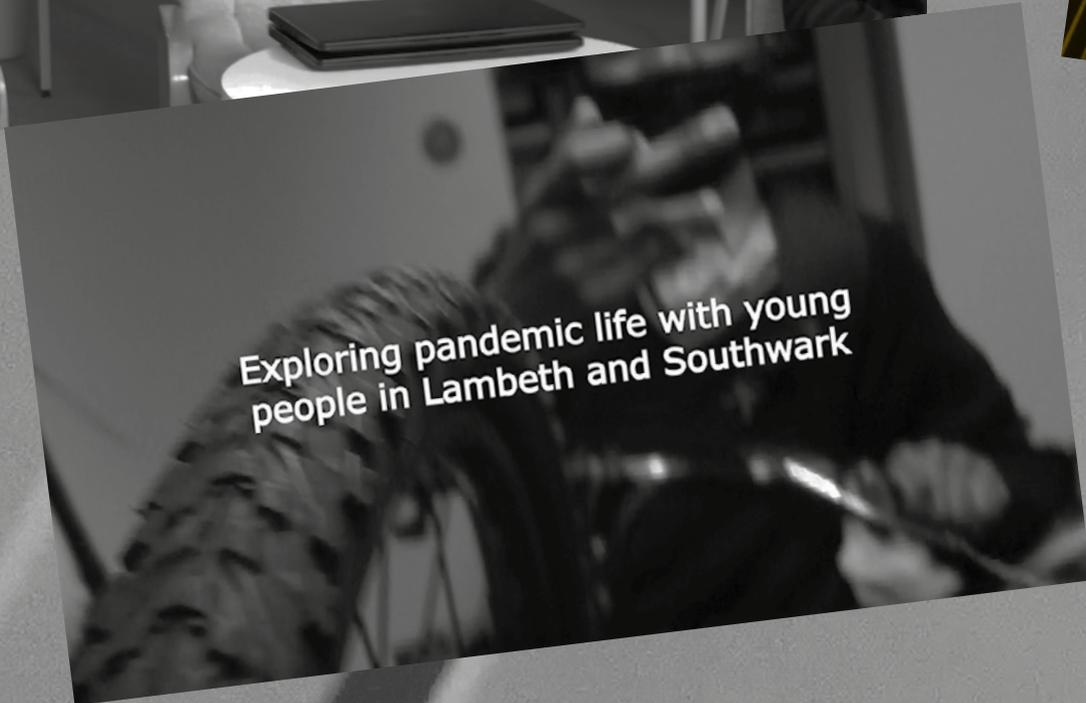


"Our young people have become starkly, deeply aware of the material difference of their life to their more privileged peers. They've really had to confront the idea that actually their parents' material circumstances has an impact on the support that they have been receiving for the last year."

Youth Worker



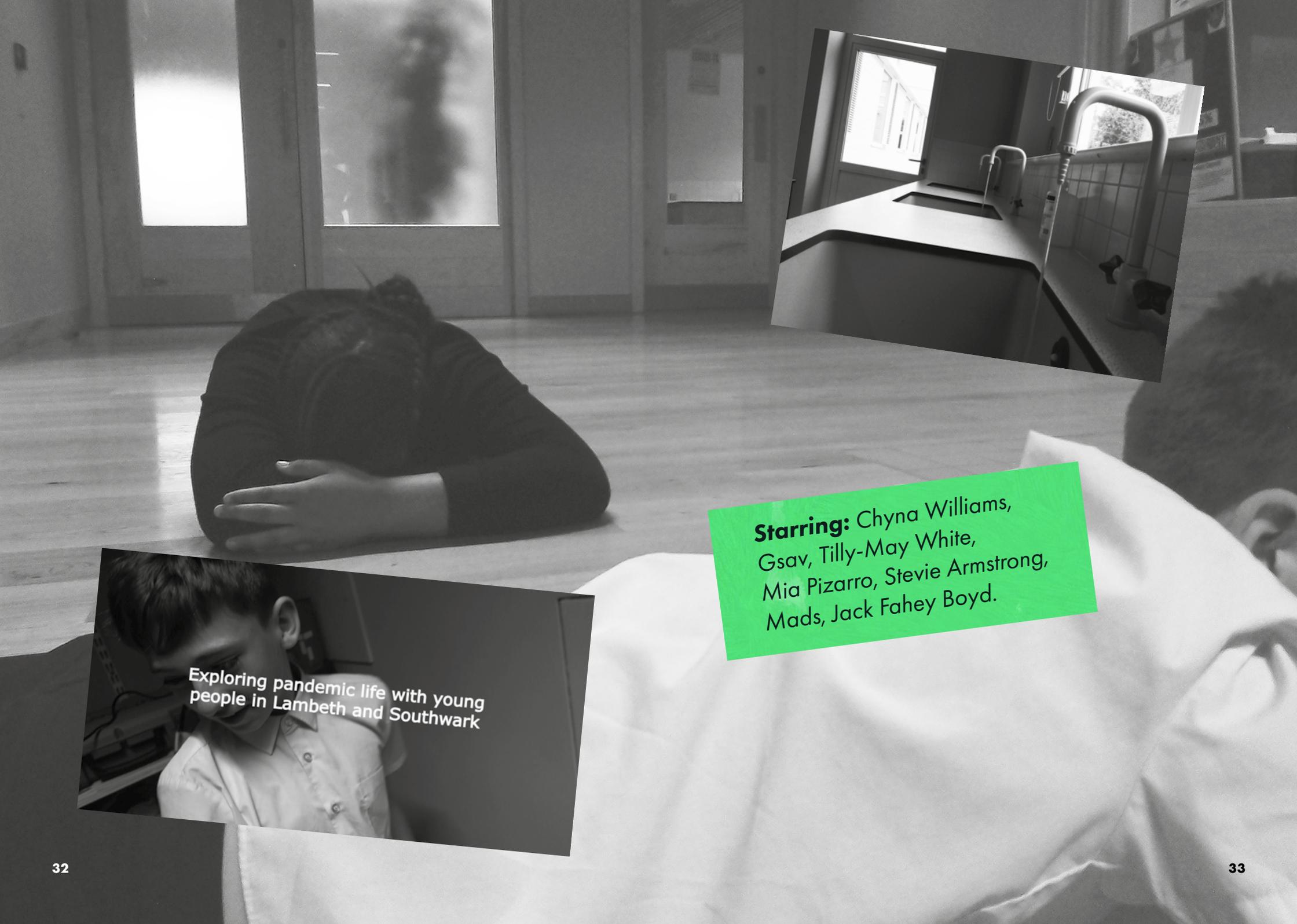
DYSTOPIA NOW



Exploring pandemic life with young people in Lambeth and Southwark

Film Sessions





Starring: Chyna Williams,
Gsav, Tilly-May White,
Mia Pizarro, Stevie Armstrong,
Mads, Jack Fahey Boyd.



Exploring pandemic life with young
people in Lambeth and Southwark





*"I like staying indoors
cause I didn't have to go
to school"*



*"Yeah, I don't like going to
school... but then it was so
boring cause the laptops
didn't work, I don't even use
laptops, computers, I don't
even do all of that"*



"You have school friends that you only see in school and they never communicate with you outside – and then you have the ones that communicate with you 24/7. So I ended up finding out who was them ones, you get me?"



CREDITS

Dystopia Now! is a research project based at King's College London, which aims to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected young people's lives in South London.

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utopianow.co.uk/dystopia

