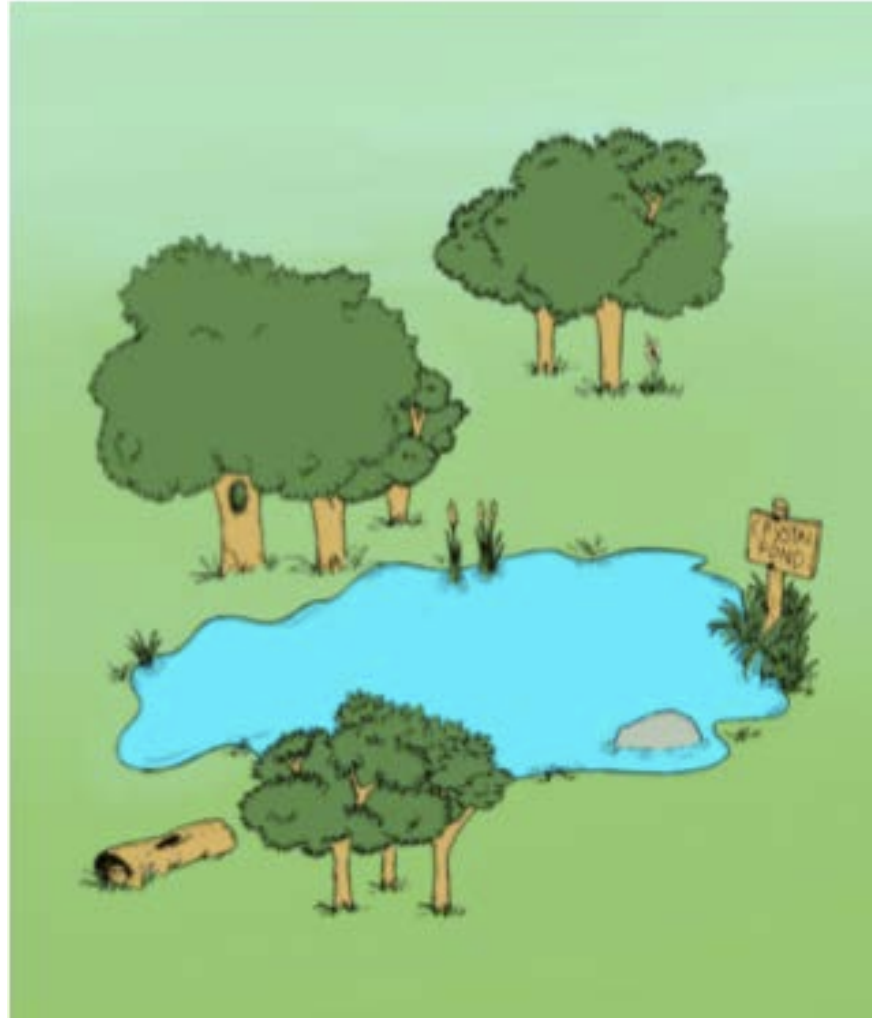


# THE COLD IN CRYSTAL POND WOODS



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Just this past April 2020, Pieces of Learning received this e-mail from Jill Spencer in North Carolina:

Hello. I teach in NC, and we use your resources [*Primary Education Thinking Skills (PETS™)* series] frequently with our first and second graders. The school's closing due to the [COVID-19] virus meant many canceled events and disappointed students and staff. One event was the Science Olympiad competition that 3-5 students work for all year. It was to be held on a Saturday in March, but the Wednesday before that our principal had to tell participants it wouldn't be happening. It was so difficult and sad. This made me think about Sybil and her love for Science. I then started thinking about the other characters in CPW and how they would adjust to life in quarantine. My head and heart put a little story together about a cold going around the Woods, instead of a virus. Just sharing in case you have interest in reading it. It is short and just shows how much the characters stick in my head! Thank you.

Another teacher [Vicki Leslie] helped me by adding your characters, art, and an activity.

The Powers That Be at Pieces of Learning shared Jill's story with the *PETS™* authors. We all enjoyed it so much that we want to share it with you, as well as invite you to use it as template for any messages you want to share with your students. Freely.

From the thinking specialists and their colleagues in Crystal Pond Woods, we wish you all the best during these challenging times. Please stay home as much as you can, stay safe, and stay healthy.

It was a bright and sunny day in Crystal Pond Woods. Sybil felt really **excited** as she walked to her lab. This weekend the Science Wizards Competition would be held in Crystal Pond Woods. Sybil was ready! She had worked hard all year with Isabel preparing for the event.





When she arrived at the lab, she was **surprised** to see Isabel waiting for her. Sybil didn't want to jump to conclusions, but she was sure Isabel was there because something must be wrong with their project for the competition.

“Hi, Isabel. Is something wrong with our project? Is there something we need to fix before the competition?”

Isabel looked sad, and she replied, “No Sybil. There is something I need to tell you.” Sybil pondered this for a minute. What could be making her friend so **unhappy?**





“Sybil, the Science Competition has been cancelled. I am so sorry.”

“Oh, Isabel, that’s not funny! You know how hard we have worked on this for months. This could be the year we win a gold medal.”

Isabel sat down a bench outside the lab. It was such a pretty day. She couldn't believe she had to tell Sybil such bad news.

“Sybil, you know there is a really bad cold going around the woods. Our mayor is asking us to cancel all big events and not gather in large groups.”

Sybil couldn't believe it. She didn't want to cry, but this was heartbreaking. Didn't the mayor understand how important this competition was to everybody? Tears started to form in her eyes.

“I’m not sick. You’re not sick. Why can’t we still have the competition?” she asked.

“This cold is very contagious. Large groups aren’t really a good idea right now,” Isabel answered.

Sybil was so **disappointed**. She said good-bye to her friend, went into the lab, and closed the door.





Isabel really wanted to help Sybil. She hated seeing her friend so upset. She decided to go see Jordan. Maybe he could help her come up with ways to make Sybil feel better.

Isabel walked to Jordan's courthouse and it wasn't busy. Citizens were staying home if possible to avoid catching the cold. Jordan saw her and called her into the courtroom. They practiced social distancing and stayed six feet apart.



“Jordan, I really want to help Sybil. She worked so hard all year preparing for the competition,” Isabel told him.

Jordan knew cancelling the event had upset many folks who were so excited about the competition. It wasn't easy for the mayor to make the decision, but he had looked at all the facts and made the decision he thought was best for the community.

Just then Yolanda and Max came into the courtroom. They were there to ask Jordan's advice, too. They had been listening to the news and knew things were difficult with the cold going around. Max had had to cancel one of his magic shows for which he had spent months preparing, and he had already sold a lot of tickets. Yolanda and Max wanted to help during this rough time, but they didn't know where to start.





Jordan wanted to help his friends. “Friends, let’s brainstorm ways we can help others and maybe cheer Sybil up, too,” he said.

“Well, there are citizens who need help getting groceries. Maybe I can help do that for my elderly neighbor,” Max said.



“That is really wise, Max. What else?” Jordan asked.



“Well, I saw on the news that **brave** doctors and nurses helping sick patients need more medical supplies,” Yolanda added.

Suddenly, lots of ideas were flowing in Isabel's brain, even though she wasn't wearing her Brainfocals!

"That's it," Isabel cried. " We can make masks for the doctors and nurses. Sybil will feel better when she starts helping us help others."

"Great idea, Isabel. What things do we need to consider before deciding if this is a good way for us to help others?" Jordan asked.

“Well, do any of us know how to sew?” Isabel asked.

“Oh, yes, I do! Dudley will help also. He even sews his own pajamas,” Yolanda answered. She was thinking about his fancy striped pajamas.

“What about supplies, like fabric?” Isabel **worried**. “We don’t have a lot of money to buy any material.”

Max was so excited when he pondered this and realized he had many old vests with bright shapes and patterns that he didn’t wear any more. The vests could be cut into pieces for the masks.

“Any more things to consider before we tell Sybil about your ideas?” Jordan asked.

“ I don’t think so, Jordan. Let’s go see her!” Isabel called out as she started running towards Sybil’s lab.





Sybil was still in her lab and feeling very **sad** when her friends arrived. She had put on her new t-shirt for the competition to try and make herself feel better. It wasn't working. She didn't even feel like solving puzzles or organizing things on her shelf. She walked slowly to the door when she heard Isabel knock.





“Hi, friend. How are you feeling?” Isabel asked her.

“Not good. I know I need to be resilient and accept that the competition isn’t going to happen, but I am just so disappointed.”

“I know how you feel,” Max said, “That’s how I feel about my magic show being cancelled.” He wanted to hug Sybil but knew he couldn’t because he needed to stay 6 feet away from her.

“Well, we have come up with something we think will cheer you up while we help others,” Yolanda said.

Isabel told Sybil about their plan to make masks for the doctors and nurses.

“Oh, wow! That is a creative idea,” exclaimed Sybil. “Do we have a big space to work, so we can all be a safe distance apart from each other?”

The group admitted they hadn’t thought of that consideration.



“That’s OK,” Sybil told them. “My lab is so big, we can spread out and work. I can start going through my things and sorting them into helpful and not helpful items. I know we will need my elastic bands, but probably not my beakers.”

Sybil was still sad about the competition, but now she had something she could do to help others and she felt **joy** in her heart.

As the friends started getting the lab ready to work, Jordan whispered to Isabel, “It looks like you made a great choice on how to make Sybil feel better.”

On a separate piece of paper, draw an emoji to match each of the emotions listed below.

excited	
surprised	
unhappy	
disappointed	
brave	
worried	
sad	
joy	



# Primary Education Thinking Skills (PETS™)



Join the fun in Crystal  
Pond Woods with the  
**PETS™ thinking  
specialists!**

Dudley the Detective  
Jordan the Judge  
Max the Magician  
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