Outside, inside

by LeUyen Pham

Something ___①___ happened on an unremarkable day just ___②___ the season changed. Everybody who was outside went inside. Everyone. Everywhere. All over the ___③___. Everyone just went inside, shut their doors, and ___④___. Well, almost everyone. Some people NEEDED to be ___⑤___ they NEEDED to be.

OUTSIDE, the sky was quiet, but the wind still blew and birds kept ___⑥___. Raccons came out and squirrels played in the streets, but the cars stayed ___⑦___. The world felt a little different. INSIDE, we baked and cooked, made music and watched TV. We read and played games. Some of us worked a little, some of us worked a lot and some of us ___⑧___ work at all. We all felt a little different.

OUTSIDE, there were fences both real and pretend. Swings sat still, and slides were ___⑨___. Bells didn't ring, and halls were ___⑩___. We had birthdays without parties, shared words without sounds, and reached each other without ___⑪___.

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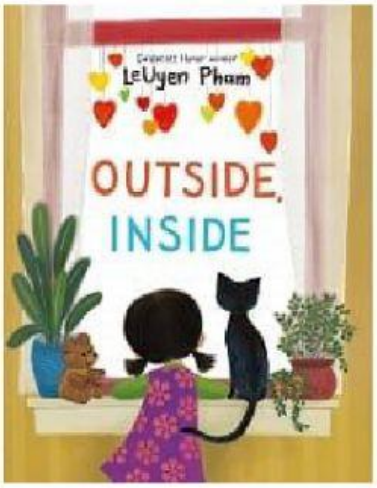
The world was changing a tiny bit outside. INSIDE, we waited and we worried, we laughed and we cried, and we tried to ___⑫___. We made things together and did things alone. We hoped and prayed and wished. We were all changing a tiny bit inside.

OUTSIDE, the world kept growing. INSIDE, we kept growing too. So why did we all go inside? Well, there were lots of ___⑬___. But mostly because everyone knew it was the right thing to do. On the OUTSIDE, we are all different. But on the INSIDE, we are all the same. And we ___⑭___ that soon ___⑮___ would come INSIDE AND OUTSIDE.



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