

After the crisis, a new world won't emerge as if by magic. We will have to fight for it

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

between, in, by, after, from, into, under, in, of, out, on, with

(...) Politicians insist that lockdown _____ coronavirus is like the experience of wartime. It's not – except _____ one way, which I'll come to. It's so quiet, for one thing. War is noisy. Sirens, soldiers tramping past singing, Luftwaffe engines in the night sky.

These lockdown weeks are more like induced sleep. Nine _____ of 10 of us see and hear nothing of the nurses and doctors, the bus drivers and key workers. We learn _____ their bravery and their deaths only by radio, from a screen or a newspaper left by a boy in a mask. For most people, life is _____ hold. A trance descends, soothed by birdsong, a dog barking, an ambulance in the distance.

What happens when it's over? European literature has a genre of "the landscape after the battle" – the ruins, the hunger and cold, the search for family survivors. The landscape _____ the plague will be unfamiliar, but not like that.

In the first place, emerging _____ isolation – waking up – must be handled carefully. It's the phase de sevrage, weaning the patient from sleep. "This prolonged dive _____ the world of dream can allow a patient to exercise their fantasies, perhaps to discover the links _____ them," warns a French doctor. "Harmful after-effects are possible, provoking in some patients paroxysms of depressive anxiety." The fantasies and anxieties are already with us. And here one comparison _____ wartime does work. The longer the virus emergency lasts, the more the memory of the pre-virus world begins to grow unreal, unconvincing. It was like that in the Second World War. "Peacetime..." Now, unmistakably, there's a feeling that "things will never be the same after it's over" and "we can't go back to all that".

Can't we, just? Some of those who govern us can imagine only restoring "their" Britain, disfigured _____ inequalities. They will exploit the real and moving solidarity shown _____ these pandemic months, as they confront the colossal debts left by rescue spending. They will impose another "we're all in this together" campaign of savage austerity at the expense of social services and the poor.