

NAPER SETTLEMENT

Naper Settlement Journaling: Your Voice in History Worksheet

Pandemics are part of human history. In 1918, an influenza outbreak coursed throughout the world affecting an estimated 1/3 of the earth's population. Approximately 50 million people died world-wide. Eleven-year-old Naperville resident Merle Clarke survived the influenza outbreak of 1918. Merle's journal is part of the collection of the Naperville Heritage Society.

Time to Journal

Merle's Journal Pages:

October 27, *Papa came down with the "flu."*

October 28, *I stayed home from school.*

October 29, *The teacher sent me home from school with the "Flu."*

October 30, *It rained all day long.*

October 31, *The Edwards Sanitorium had 6,000 fine.*

November 1, *Tonight I threw up blood, my fever was 104, and I got a touch of pneumonia.*

November 2, *Mr. Kliehauer came and brought us a bouquet of asters.*

After listening to her journal entries during the video, think about the following as you write:

- What about her writing indicates that she is a child?
- Do any of the words used to describe Merle come out through her writing?
- What can we learn about her normal, daily life from the journal?
- Does this excerpt give us the whole picture of Merle's life at the time?
- Does anything stand out to you?
- Do you feel like something is missing?

USE THIS SPACE TO WRITE:

What you just did is the work of a historian! Historians use **Primary Sources** to learn about the past. A primary source is a first-hand artifact. It is a document written from the perspective of an actual participant. It is the house in which the person lived. It is the photograph taken of the event while it was happening. By learning about the perspective a person from the time period or event in question, a historian can make a more accurate interpretation to help others learn about the past. What PRIMARY SOURCES can you name?

Time to Journal

Merle's Journal Pages

November 3, *This morning Mrs. [unknown] (the nurse) came.*

November 4, *Mr. Kliehauer called. The Royal neighbors sent mama a bouquet, and I sat up.*

November 5, *Today was elections, and the Republicans won.*

November 6, *Today we got a letter from Uncle Harry with his coupon for a xmas package.*

November 7, *Today the war was declared over & everybody went wild but it was only false.*

November 8, *Mama and I sat up for 3 hrs. and Mr. Kliehauer came to see how we were.*

November 9, *Mama and I dressed today, but the boys got relapses.*

November 10, *Mrs. Kliehauer and her two youngest sons came to inquire [sic] about us.*

November 11, *The great world War is over, & I went outdoors a little while.*

November 12, *Today the nurse went home.*

Time to Start YOUR Journal!

Using a notebook, journal about this moment in history. Are you hopeful, afraid, confident, confused, all of the above? Use your experiences during the Coronavirus Outbreak to journal your thoughts and ideas during this time. Your writing may even become a primary source 100 years from now. Here are some topics you can write about:

- Were you concerned when you first heard that COVID-19 had come to the United States?
- What scares you about the outbreak?
- How have the changes you've had to make affected your life?
- What was life like before the outbreak?
- Do you think some things will never be the same again?
- What have you enjoyed about the changes?
- How are you keeping connected to your friends?
- How is schooling from home going?
- What do you think of learning from home?