## Working Together While Being Apart: A Pandemic Life

## Lauren McLean<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of English and Theatre Studies, University of Guelph, Guelph, Canada

E-mail: lmclea05@uoguelph.ca

Zoom or Teams?

We aren't A team

Me. You. Them.

Bright screens

And open tabs

Alone

Each of us.

Maybe at home

An office

A couch

A bedroom.

Surrounded by

Heavy news

Family, pets, plants

Other responsibilities.

Maybe not fully alone

But certainly

No team

Bing!

Reminder:

Meeting at 10:30

Rushing

To make it.

Sign in

Or find the link

Buried amongst

Endless emails.

Video on?

Video off

Mute,

Unmute

Mute again.

I'm struggling

Reminding myself to care

For the work, for the "team"

For myself.

Myself

I repeat, myself

Where is the "bing" for self-care?

Bing!

The day, today

Repeats

Remaining connected

While being apart

Zoom or Teams?