During Labor Day, I read the novel Plague. The book begins as a plague is sweeping Oran, a coastal town in North Africa. First rats then humans begin dying and the governor decides to quarantine the town by isolating it from the outside world. Many of the characters are cut off from those they love. The characters in this book range from Dr. Bernard, to vacationers and fugitives. Terrors and loneliness almost reduce people into despair. Everyone deals with deadly diseases in their own way: some resign themselves to their fate, others spare no efforts to prevent the disease. As the townspeople try to survive, the book shows us their resilience, suffering, compassion, banning and their thoughts on love and life.

The person who impresses me the most is Dr. Bernard. He is one of the first to recognize the threat of epidemic and urge the government to adopt strict sanitation measures. After Oran is quarantined, he tries his best to treat the patients and maintain the order of the city. Although his efforts are almost useless, Bernard still fights the plague and is trying his best to help his patients even though there is no cure or vaccine for the plague.

Facing catastrophe, many citizens are hopeless in the first because of the mere opportunity to survive. So when the governor orders to block this city, it is like hell in reality. But when courageous and socially responsible persons like Dr. Bernard and Jean stand up to fight against the disease, they naturally feel the necessity and power to unite. An outstanding one is Jean, he is an outsider of the city, but he starts the voluntary anti-plague effort and works just as hard as Dr. Bernard in battling the epidemic. Though he doesn’t survive the plague, his selfless spirit inspires many bystanders to join the battle. And finally they make it. As the saying goes, when everybody adds fuel, the flames rise.

Reading Plague is like reading a story about the outbreak of the new coronavirus. This epidemic has claimed the lives of most of Oran’s population. This book contains the author's philosophy of life. It explores the irrationality of human existence and shows that even though many people never fully realize their potential, everyone has an inherent instinct for good deeds. This was strongly proven by our process of defeating the epidemic, during which we united together to follow the government's appeal staying at home to contain the spread of the covid-19 virus. Volunteers ran between the communities and came to collect data at the risk of being infected by covid-19. Many volunteers died on the front line of the fight against the epidemic. Even so, there are still countless people who have gone to the epidemic area, just to help those in need. This is also a truth. Unity is strength, which is also related to our philosophy of survival. After the nest is covered, the eggs are laid down. If the collective interests have been severely damaged, then it is impossible for our own personal interests not to be damaged.

In general, after reading this novel, I have new thinking and understanding of the meaning of life. We have been living in a group. If it disappears, loneliness and pain will be inevitable for us. Therefore, we must be united together.