

Jennifer Wang

Distance

2001

I was born with her kiss on my forehead
No matter sleeping or playing
I loved to smell her
It was the scent of the sun and flowers
24 hours a day
With a distance of 0

2004

She sent me to kindergarten
I was excited that day
But she cried
I said that it was actually okay
Because not counting weekends and nights
We could still stick with each other
7 hours a day
With a distance of 0.3 miles

2007

I went to primary school
She said sorry again and again to me
Because she had to work
So I had to stay at school until 7 p.m.
But it was actually okay
I loved to stay with my friends playing at school
Discussing our favorite songs and stars
Since then
We could only see each other
3 hours a day
With a distance of 2 miles

2012

She picked a boarding school for me
She said with some teardrops in her eyes
“It’s a great middle school, but I don’t want you to leave me 5 days a week”
But it was actually okay
I loved to sleep in the dorm with my classmates
And use my cell phone whenever I want
It was much more fun than arguing with her all day at home
Therefore
I could only talk with her
2 days a week
With a distance of 7 miles

2016

I decided to study abroad
Surprisingly
She only said that I needed to work hard
Even if she could not stay with me

The night before I left home
I stared at her back
She was packing suitcases for me
That moment I realized
It was actually not okay
Because the next time I could smell her
Or stick with her
Or argue with her
Would be 4 months later
I cried eventually

I said,
“I will never leave you, mom”
But she turned to me
With no teardrops in her eyes,
“It’s okay, you are 15 now, and you are already leaving me”

From that day on,
We could only see each other
100 days a year
With a distance of 5000 miles

Jennifer Wang is a current senior at a high school in Tacoma, Washington. She enjoys reading and writing poetry during her free time, and her favorite poet is John Berryman because of his witty words. She looks forward to meeting new friends who are also passionate about poetry via *Muddy River Poetry Review*.