

## **My Journey in Quarantine *by Yoojin Heo***

I hate it here.

Stuck at home in quarantine--

Like a bird with a broken wing,

it feels suffocating- I can't breathe.

I miss the spontaneous adventures

Like the one time

My friends and I decided to skip school

To eat food, talk, and laugh till our stomachs hurt.

Now the fun and laughter

Remain as only memories

As we spend each day,

alone,

Behind 2D screens.

I hate it here.

Every day feels like the same,

But now months have passed.

My hope for a better future fades.

I hate it here.

My circle of friends is shrinking,  
Along with my self-esteem and worth  
as the number on the scale goes up.

I do nothing but sleep.

I don't feel like myself.

I don't like this.

I hate it here.

But

I see my family and friends  
who are there to support me  
So how can I be miserable,  
when there are so many good things around to see?

One day, I stare at my mom  
And see wrinkles beside her beautiful eyes  
And white hair growing around her healthy chestnut hair.

I realize:

That my mom won't be here with me forever;

Life *is* too short to sleep through whatever.

I think:

*You know, Yoojin,*

*7 billion people experienced today differently*

*And your day is determined by what you make of it.*

You know what they say,

“Be the change I want to see.”

Do I really hate it here?

I start waking up earlier and working out;

Although it's hard, I fight through it

because I know every effort will count.

My confidence goes up,

My smile grows brighter.

Maybe it's not so bad here after all.

Oh

and I think the sky has gotten bluer?

## SHORT POEMS

### **We Unite to Fight Haiku *by Yoojin Heo***

After years and years  
Of silence and oppression,  
All unite to fight.

### **How Mentally Drained People Have Become from COVID Haiku *by Yoojin Heo***

Covid taking the lives  
Of our body, souls, and hopes;  
But life still goes on.

### **2 AM Thoughts *by Yoojin Heo***

Is everyone as happy as they seem on social media?  
Or is everyone lying?

### **To My Little Sister *by Yoojin Heo***

Though I may be tough and strict,  
I want nothing but the best for you.  
I know how much you look up to me,  
But did you know I look up to you too?  
The number of years between our ages is as long as a cat's many lives  
You are like a little me (as mom and dad say).  
You have the kindest soul I've ever seen

And you are one of the reasons I smile every day.

I love you, Christine.

**When Trees Are Chopped Away *by Yoojin Heo***

When trees are chopped away,

there remains a stump,

Appearing lonely and hopeless

Like it will soon decay.

But firm into the ground

the stump marks its position,

strong with its roots,

deeply tied to the depths

of the earth's bound.

It grows a little sprout

as the remnant- the remaining one.

Reviving what once was cut

to create a whole new tree

that will one day reach the clouds.

\*This poem was written to talk about how the writer sees herself. Though most people don't see much to her and though people just see her as nothing special, she acknowledges her self worth

and gains assurance of her hopes and dreams (which she realized and acquired through quarantine). She is hopeful that she will stand as a summit in the future that will contribute to bringing a positive change to the world and society. Just like how different trees sprout into strong firm trees at a different pace, she wants to point out that she is sure she will one day achieve her dreams no matter how long it takes.