Sticky Hands

Ana Kim, Class of 2024

My goal this summer was to attempt writing my first ever longer-form fiction story,

Sticky Hands, with the guidance of my faculty mentor, Professor Janmohamed. Sticky Hands was

meant to pull elements from the various English and Asian Studies courses I have taken during

my time at Bowdoin, with the crafting of the narrative itself supported by the intro and advanced

fiction writing 䉗脥퀄怄뀄䀅ငꀄ쀅ငꀀ as I continue to work with the plot.

These 8 weeks also taught me a lot about the writing process — both in a craft sense, as

my faculty mentor and I read through and discussed works such as Please Look After Mom and

Letters to a Writer of Color, as well as in a personal sense, as I found out more about how I

write

for some 4 hours like I could for a more research-based paper. Rather, I had to work with the rise

and fall of my own inspiration, avoiding burn out by allowing myself to acknowledge when I

was stuck, or when I was feeling ready to write (even if that moment was at 3AM). Additionally,

I learned the importance of letting ideas change and breathe as needed. My own plans for the

story derailed pretty early into the summer in terms of characters and plot arcs, but the central

themes of handling guilt, loss, and the echoes of childhood in a Seoul-centered setting stayed

throughout the 8 weeks.

I hope to continue working on Sticky Hands, possibly carrying it over into an honors

project that either expands on the original story or marks the beginning of a collection of separate

works under the same theme. With my current aim of applying to English graduate programs in

the fall semester, getting the chance to focus on expanding my selection of submittable writing

was an incredible opportunity.

Faculty Mentor: Zahir Janmohamed

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