

It's my true pleasure to introduce the sole honorable mention recipient of the Ossip Award, a fantastic essay about family and place titled "Beyond Park" by Yexiu Gao.

This essay was written for Dr. Cory Holding's Workshop in Composition course and centers on the author's relationship with a treasured family member: a grandmother.

I too grew up with a strong connection to the matriarchs of my family, and so I have a soft spot for essayists who write about them, particularly when they do so with vivid detail and profound curiosity as Yexiu does here.

This essay captures the special relationship at its heart with moving clarity, yet it refrains from assuming that the subject's life can be reduced to that relationship alone. Instead the writer wonders: What does my grandmother do when I'm not around? What is her particularized world? Her passions, her fears, her dreams?

These are questions difficult to ask and even more difficult to answer. It requires a true essayist to do both. Congratulations again to Yexiu.