

Homesick: A poem

I have often dreamed of a far off place
Where a great warm welcome will be
waiting for me
And a voice keeps saying
This is where I'm meant to be.

I remember Daddy told me
"Fairytale can come true
Switch on the sky, and the stars glow
for you
Go see the world 'cause it's all so brand
new
Don't close your eyes,
'cause your future's ready to shine."

All those days, chasing down a
daydream
All those years, living in a blur
All that time, never truly seeing
Things the way they were.

Now comes the time
When I am wiser
When the world's older
When I have learned
A cottage small is all I'm after
Not one that's spacious and
wide
A hearth that rings with joy and
laughter
With the ones that I love inside.

I was told, every day in my
childhood, even when we grow
old
Home will be where the heart is.
Never were words so true.
Since my heart is now far, far
away.
Home is too.

Wherever I wander, wherever I roam
I couldn't be fonder of my big home
Where there's a calm surrender
To the rush of day
When the heat of a rolling wind
Can be turned away.

This love it is a distant star
Guiding us home wherever we are
This love it is a burning sun
Shining a light on the things that we've done.



Key

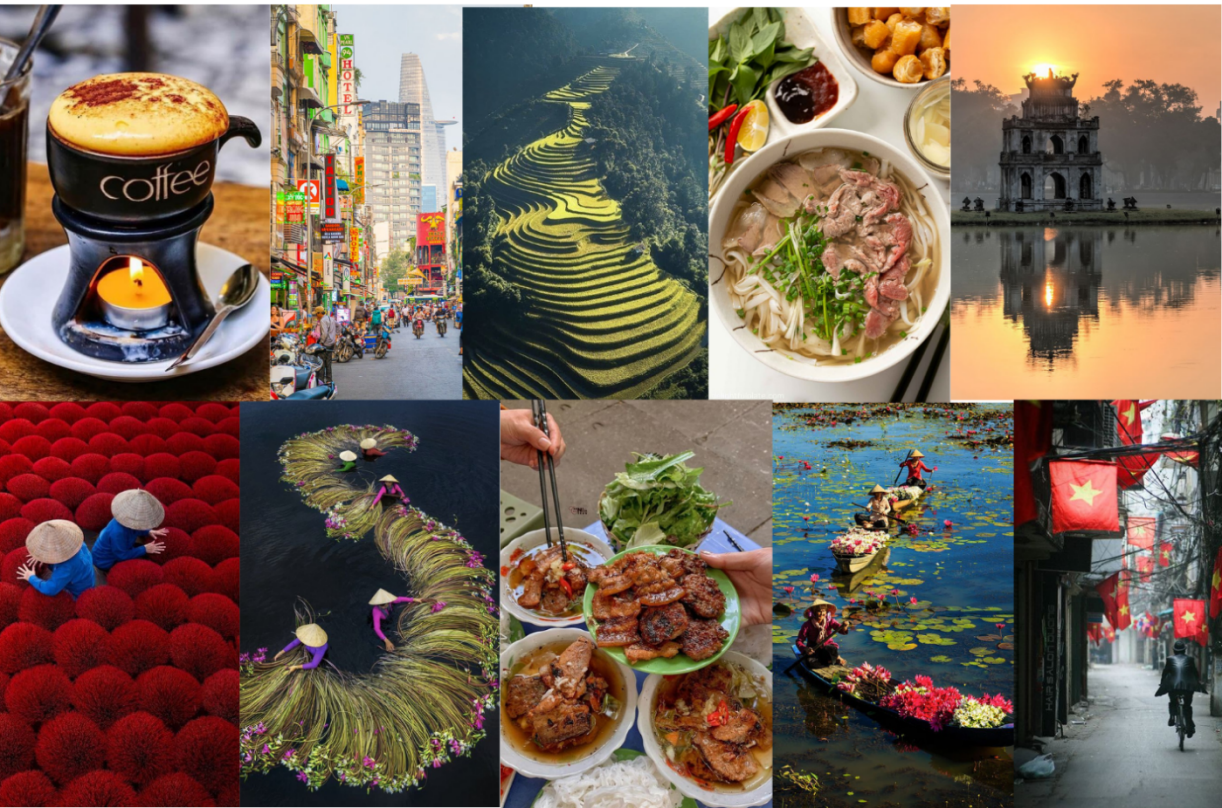
1. Lyrics source:

Disney songs:

- The Bare Necessities (from "The Jungle Book")
- Almost There (from "The Princess and the Frog")
- Into the Open Air (from "Brave")
- Home (from "Beauty and the Beast")
- Go the Distance (from "Hercules")
- I See the Light (from "Tangled")
- Give Me the Simple Life (from "Meet the Robinsons")
- When Can I See You Again? (from "Wreck-it Ralph")
- Can You Feel the Love Tonight? (from "The Lion King")
- Someday (from "The Hunchback of Notre Dame")

2. Image sources:

- Pinterest



Reflection

During the brainstorming phase, I originally intended to create something fun, quirky yet meaningfully sarcastic at the same time. I wanted to take my project in the form of a poem because making an English poem was one of the things I wanted to try out while at Smith. I tried out some of the themes that I thought would be easy to exploit but they did not work out. So, eventually, I decided to go with one theme that was predominant in my mind for the last month: homesickness. Coincidentally, since I came to the States, I have been rewatching a lot of Disney movies during my spare time so I was inspired to merge the lyrics from various different Disney songs to create my own poem about my feeling.

The whole process of making this poem was very exciting, experimental, and emotional for me. I researched some rules for making an English poem, and read some of the most famous ones including those of Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, Sylvia Plath, Edgar Allan Poe, and Maya Angelou. After that, I searched for the lyrics of some Disney movies and started to write down the lines that could be used in my poem. The rest of the process was fairly easy, and after the peer response, I improved my draft to make it into my last piece of product.

The poem is somehow short, but the lyrics are so amazing and impactful that they can fully convey my feelings of homesickness. I also gathered pictures of Vietnam from Pinterest, edited them, and shaped all of them to make the S shape of Vietnam. Each Vietnamese will love our country in different ways, and so do I. The image of Vietnam in the project is created with what I love and admire about my hometown.

I use lyrics from many songs that originally are not about homesickness and are used in different contexts in the movies, and I also changed some of them to be more consistent, so my poem is an original remix that transfers a whole new meaning. However, it is still considered a plagiarism because of the lack of quotation marks.