

This piece was dedicated to my mum who passed away from a rare form of cancer a few years ago. Amidst the challenging times spent in the hospital, my mum, dad and I shared beautiful moments filled with joy and love. We found solace and happiness by folding paper cranes, creating a sanctuary within the sterile walls. Despite the difficulties surrounding us, the act of crafting these delicate birds became a symbol of hope and strength for me. These precious memories I hold close to me, as we laughed, told stories, and wove dreams into each fold, I will forever cherish. In this poem, I wanted to encapsulate my personal journey with dealing with the loss of my mum, while intertwining my Chinese heritage. By embracing the traditions and rituals, I find solace, meaning, and a sense of belonging. The poem serves as a reflection of my life, and my journey to strength and healing.

My work draws inspiration from traditional Chinese paintings, known as "国画 Guo Hua." This art form, with its simplicity, harmony with nature, symbolism, and delicate aesthetics, influenced both my poem and graphics. The poem captures poignant moments using concise language, while the visuals reflect the serene landscapes and symbolic imagery found in Traditional Chinese painting. By fusing poetry and visuals, I was able to create a multi-dimensional expression of my personal journey and Chinese heritage.



The symbolism of the cranes represents both me and my mum. Folding the paper cranes together symbolises our shared journey and the close bond we had, while the crane's wings embody the memories and emotions that uplift me. The poem emphasises the eternal presence of my mother's love, which I feel every day, the impact she had on my life, and the ways in which her spirit continues to guide me. Amidst grief, my Chinese heritage has provided me with the resilience I need to heal. I wanted to portray the significance of the "Middle Kingdom", to represent my ancestral connection and the cultural pride I carry. The phrase "Middle Kingdom" I use in the poem, refers to China itself. The term "Middle Kingdom" is a translation of the Chinese word "Zhōngguó."

While the poem was the main component of this submission, as a graphic design student I believe that visuals are just as important in communicating a message. The visuals of the paper cranes and Chinese mountains, played a significant role in conveying emotions, deepening the connection to my Chinese heritage, and adding a layer of visual storytelling to the overall viewer experience. Visual elements also capture attention and engage the viewer on a different level. I was able to create a multi-dimensional experience for the viewers. This visual engagement allows them to connect with the themes and emotions on a deeper, more immersive level, enhancing their emotional response to my poem.

I used a paler colour palette for the graphics to evoke a sense of tranquillity and softness to help convey the delicate nature of the memories shared with my mum in the hospital. The subdued colours reflect the emotional weight and sensitivity of my experiences, capturing the sombre yet heartfelt moments. The colours also created a serene and calming atmosphere for the viewer.