

**Q. Can you introduce yourself and tell us a little about who you are?**

A. Hi there! My name is Christine, and I'm from the West Coast. I really enjoy writing poetry and satire, and in my free time, I am learning to cook!

**Q. How did it feel when you found out you were a winner?**

A. Finding out I was a winner for the AAPI competition was honestly very surreal! I felt a mix of shock and excitement, but more than anything, I felt really grateful that my work resonated with others.

**Q. What first came to mind when you saw the theme Roots and Resonance?**

A. The first thing I thought about was connection, specifically how cultural roots shape who we are, and echo in many different aspects of our lives. I thought about Roots and Resonance as starting in one place and expanding outward to create an impact beyond myself.

**Q. What does the theme mean to you personally?**

A. To me, Roots and Resonance represents understanding where I come from while also recognizing how that influences the way I see the world today. I explored my cultural identity and the unique moments in which different worlds collided, as well as my growth.

**Q. How did your work connect to your own experiences, identity, or community?**

A. My work was really rooted in my own experiences and the environment I've grown up in. I tried to reflect the blending of both Chinese and American cultures in my work so that it remained deeply personal yet also relatable to others.

**Q. Can you tell us about the idea behind your work?**

A. My inspiration came from wanting to capture how the past and present intertwine with cultural identity. I focused on memories of a long ago winter and my family's traditions to create much of my work.

**Q. What was your creative process like?**

A. My writing process was quite gradual while creating this poem. I started by reminiscing all about my memorable winter, then toyed with different ways to structure my poem; after much revising, I'm happy to share my poetry with you! Thank you for reading!