

DATE, September 21 seemed like it would never come. I missed you intensely, and it was the middle of summer. I remember the day you left I was wearing my red dress that complimented my chest and my hair up in a ponytail. When I kissed you goodbye, your lips tasted faintly of the peppermint chap-stick that you borrowed from my purse. The tea-tree smell of your shampoo caught in my nose right before we pulled apart. I waved to you as you stepped in to the security check line. You were going back to Singapore, your home. "I'll FaceTime you when I land in 17 hours", you told me.

DESIDERIUM, I binge watched tv shows to pass the time. I gardened and spent time outside with my mom, which was my favorite thing to do. I enjoyed being near the farm animals and feeling the rays of the sun tan my skin, bringing out my face freckles. But nighttime was when my longing for you was the most palpable. Sometimes, I'd curl up in bed and re-watch old videos of us kayaking and singing karaoke to Disney songs. All I knew is that I'd never missed someone so much. Weeks passed. My heart felt heavy, like someone had placed a metal lock on it. I needed you to come home with the key. But, you didn't.

DETACH, "The city here is dirtier, there's more homeless people and the weather is colder," you said to me before you left. I could imagine what Singapore is like; both cities alive, independent, thriving. I certainly wasn't. The pain of missing you pushed me to a point of wanting to pull away. A defense, one might say. I was trying to forget the pain of you being gone, so that I could stop living this, half-assed summer. I was disengaging; bowing out.

DISTANCE, There is this disconnect in defining distance. You explained to me how in physics, distance is defined by an equation. I took my share of physics classes, but distance has many definitions. In relationships it can be good or bad, or important in calculations. Here was this equation that provoked so much feeling in me and most of it was just sad pain. We were 8,059 miles away from each other. Can you calculate the emotional distance between you and me? I missed you until you came back. This physics equation... it separates you from me.