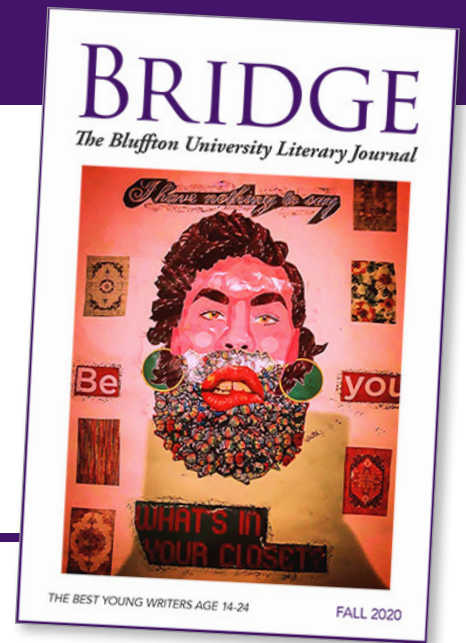


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FLOWERCUTS

Jaewon Chang

Within a forest, magnolia trees create a shelter,
the trail of petals form a pink carpet,
a great hall without its top to envelope voices,
children standing on both ends,
a familiar game
of *the mugunghwa* has perched,
the uneven grounds don't impede
their running - they consider
the landscape to be a challenge
the game would continue even
with injuries, the tripping over planks
of wood and twigs, until
their echoes of laughter extend
like the scent of Jasmine sepals
caressing budworms, soon
silence will begin to mar the skies
and bandaids will begin to peel off
revealing a timer
running out.

JAEWON CHANG is a high school junior in the Philippines. He enjoys solving math problems and travelling the city on foot. His works have been published in magazines such as the *Blue Marble Review* and *Eunoia Review*.