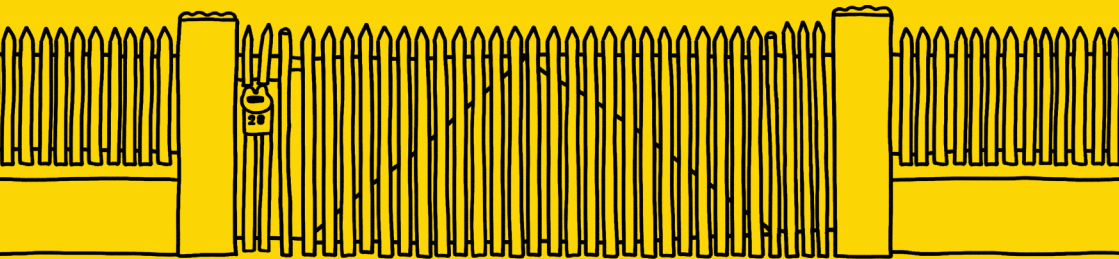


YAYO &
YAYA'S



JOSEFINA HUQ

YAYO & YAYA'S

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YAYO & YAYA'S : THE EXEGESIS

My creative writing project, *Yayo & Yaya's*, is an effort to write about childhood memory in the specific place setting of my grandparent's home. The exegesis is where I examine this project closely in order to learn more about the phenomenology of place, poetics, and the concept of nostalgia.

My exegesis establishes phenomenology as a form of research for place, specifically for the study of home. I also explore the nostalgia that I feel for Yayo and Yaya's home, and how I have come to recognise themes connecting to time and death within my stories.

Drawing from creative writers and theorists of phenomenology and nostalgia I explore the techniques of my writing and how the experience of place and nostalgia can be expressed and understood through writing. Within this discussion I examine the features of memory, childhood, and the body as a way of knowing place.

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INTRODUCTION

My grandparents, Francisco and Josefa Martinez (whom I refer to as Yayo and Yaya), have been an integral part of my life and my childhood. More specifically, their household in Palmerston, which I consider my own home, has had a profound impact on me. This is especially apparent in my creative writing where I find myself wanting to write about my childhood memories of this home. These feelings and my curiosity have been heightened since moving from my hometown, where they live, to Melbourne, where I write this. With this creative writing project I wanted to discover why I have an obsession with their home, and I've attempted to gain a better understanding through a phenomenological study of place and the nostalgia that the home evokes.

The following is a suite of flash-fictions which are integral to my understanding of the home. The stories are loosely based on my memories of childhood at Yayo and Yaya's. This writing was prompted by many smaller projects, the most inspiring being the building and documentation of Yayo and Yaya's house in the game *The Sims 4* (2014). For this reason I've included screenshots of the construction relating to particular areas of the house. I feel this is necessary to exhibit the extent to which I studied the house, and how crucial the phenomenological study of place is to my project.

The stories are separated by the specific rooms and areas of the home. I have come to know these little places within Yayo and

Yaya's house through their native language, and because of this the titles of the stories are in both Spanish and English.

This creative project is then followed by an exegesis where I discuss the patterns and themes in my writing in relation to the phenomenology of place, poetics, and the experience of nostalgia.

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