

justBones - olivia lee

A project which blends digital media and creative writing to create a Gothic experience.

For my final project, I've written a collection of poems inspired by my experiences in the spring of 2020. I was going through mental health and familial issues that were certainly exacerbated by the pandemic and subsequent isolation. At the time, I was staying with my estranged father, I wasn't speaking to my mother or siblings, and I was struggling with self-image and friendships. Unsure about my future, as COVID threatened the start of college, I was in a low. With this in mind, I wanted to illustrate my deconstruction and recreation of self.

These five poems tell a story which embodies some of the Gothic elements we've discussed throughout the course. There are elements of the uncanny/grotesque/supernatural, rejection by external and internal forces, and precarity. Ultimately, the arc follows my younger self as she changes from damsel to dead girl to monster. In the end, she's a bitter and vindictive alter ego.

More than just reading the poems, I wanted to create a visual experience to accompany them. There are two pages, the landing page and the assembly of poems. The landing page has a few easter eggs, including this summary, a Pinterest board, and the playlist I had previously created for *Carmilla*. The central button takes the user to the poems, where they can scroll through to read them all. I wanted to be somewhat visually consistent with a set color palette and art that reflected the literary themes, however the style as a whole is purposefully chaotic and melodramatic.

I've really enjoyed this course, and it will continue to be something I consider in my creative work moving forward into graduate school.