3. What would you say is your greatest talent of skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

Grasped in between my tremulous fingers, the hook moved from right to left as it pulled the string through the silver loop. One loop. Two loops. Repeat. That is the beginning of every individual’s crochet experience, and the first step through the eye of the needle is always the toughest hurdle.

My discovery of crochet had begun when I was gifted with a crochet pouch: an incredibly adorable whale one! Though I had previously held little interest in sewing as my brain perceived it as a task most suited for grandmothers, the stitches found in crochet items had intrigued me.

Therefore, when little 10-year-old me heard my mom talk about a crochet class, she enthusiastically requested to participate. Though most kids eventually dropped out due to lack of patience and persistence, she remained because she was determined to finish that first basic crochet pattern.

Upon hearing that my family was travelling to Australia for break, little me decided to make her own scarves despite the fact that she had just been at the early stages of her crochet journey. The great thing about crochet is that it poses no limits to the designs one’s imagination can come up with. After hours of watching video tutorials and crocheting, the scarves were completed, and the pictures of that trip still serve as a reminder of that first creation. Since then, I’ve started creating basic crochet gifts that I would give to my friends.

Crochet was not a task with a set of instructions to follow. It was a journey filled with endless possibilities from a basic stitch and numerous pathways to find your inner self: your hidden creativity and imagination. To me, it was also a mental therapy of relaxation during periods of hectic schedules where beautiful creations are formed in the process. Crochet provided the balance between work and creativity, between the big picture results and the smallest details of each stitch. It was a task requiring immense patience and dedication, but the end result was worth the strenuous hours, a symbol of the rewards of patience, determination, and great thoroughness.