Alzheimer

Barren

Derelict

Forget

Invisible

No

Pandemic

Passe

Separate

Yesterday

Among all these words, “Alzheimer” is the word that recalls my experience of being exiled. My brother and I were raised by my grandparents when we were young, and they are the people I care about the most in this world. My grandpa, who is already 91-year-old, has symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease. He starts forgetting things and has trouble understanding others’ words. The only time I cried was when I said goodbye to him on my way to America because I don’t know if he can still recognize me when I go back. Even though I understand memory loss is not the thing he can control by himself, being forgotten by the loved one is heartbreaking, and I feel like I am being exiled from my grandpa’s world. Unfortunately, since the pandemic and the strict quarantine policy, I did not go back to Beijing this summer.

Another word is “invisible.” Being invisible is saying that it makes no difference if you are or not because you don’t matter at all, and nobody cares about you. I felt like I was invisible when there was a time my opinion was ignored in a group discussion. It made me feel awful of not being respected by others.