

成 THE SEONG ANNALS 성



A relaxing summer at Lake Santeetlah, NC

Special events in our family's life

- Hae-In is now a freshman at Harvard University.
- Eugene levels up
- Yennie approaches high school
- Micah and Caleb are still bookworms

Happy holidays from our family to yours! Here's a quick recap of what happened to us in 2017.

In perhaps the biggest news of the year, Hae-In was accepted into Harvard University's class of 2021! He left for Harvard this last autumn and is now a relatively happy college student. We all miss him quite a bit, so we try to keep in touch as much as possible - even though he always seems to be overloaded with schoolwork. Mom and Dad are worried about how he's living - personally, I wish I could have his independence. Since last year, Mom has gotten a job as the head of a tutoring center. Unfortunately, it means she isn't home a lot of the time, but we're all learning to adapt to the changes. Yennie and I are getting quite good at cooking dinner ourselves! Yennie is now thirteen years old, and is starting to get worried about high school. She is learning how to be patient with her younger brothers - and her older brother, too! Micah and Caleb are proficient readers now, and are rushing

through their chapter books faster than we can recommend them. They are *both* obsessed with biology now (complements of Micah), and are familiarizing themselves to the rigors of daily schoolwork. Last summer, I attended a three-week math camp and received a small monetary scholarship too (yay). The rest of the year, I have been acting as the voice of reason in our otherwise hectic life. Hae-In accidentally left his responsibilities at home, so I've been handling of them (no easy task). Now that I'm the oldest child at home, I have to take care of everything - Micah and Caleb (and Dad), as adorable as they might be, can be quite a handful...

Eugene Seong is the resident general expert of humor and rhetoric, and the second in the Seong family.

Micah's View

I started Kendo this year. When I saw my older siblings doing it, I thought it was really easy. But when I started, it seemed that more of my energy was being used. We switched from one dojo to another a little while after I started Kendo. I like the new dojo a lot. Its locker rooms are nicer. The swinging doors are neat. When I start to put on the shirt, it feels cold, but the pants keep my legs very warm. I like when I hit the older people with my sword. I've been playing cello for more than two years.

I like the sound of the cello. Playing the cello makes me feel energetic. I think it is the best instrument. Caleb just started playing the violin this year. He plays Twinkle Twinkle many times. Yennie will soon audition for a radio thing. You might hear her play the piano on the radio someday! Eugene is still playing the violin and taking voice lessons. Eugene sings every-where-in the shower, in the car, while washing the dishes... But when practicing violin he goes upstairs to practice. I don't know why. (Hypothesis: I think he's trying to get away from all the noise.)

Micah is the fourth child of the Seong family and an expert in biology



Catch me if you can!



It's something...



Hae-In's newfound freedom



This year's trips: a brief commentary



Yennie enjoying the outdoors

"I can't wait until I can go to college and live the life of a college student!"



I'm watching you...

Last summer, we had the luxury of staying at a relative's lake house in North Carolina. Though the drive was dangerous and sickening, it was certainly worth it! Lake Santeetlah was scenic and the house was spacious. Our week there was quite leisurely. Our daily schedule included canoeing, swimming, fishing, hiking, and lazing about watching old Charlie Chaplin movies. Except the normal restrictions (no staying out after dark or in a storm), we could frolic outside to our heart's content. Most of us chose our own special 'activity' to do every day.

For example, canoeing was my 'thing'. I went out whenever I could get someone to come with me. Micah and Caleb loved to paddle around in the lake squirting water at each other (and sometimes to spectators too!). Mom, Dad, and Hae-In relaxed on shore ~~app~~ supervising. Fishing was a thing only Eugene really tried to do. He withstood thunder and heat only to be disappointed. To make up for his disappointment, Mom brought us all to a stocked fishpond. Within the first 20 minutes, we caught three handsome rainbow trout. They tasted as good as they looked! As good as swimming and canoeing are, sleeping in is a really wonderful treat. It is amazing how doing nothing is so satisfactory.

However, Mom, ever the energetic one, pushed us into our boots and onto the trails. My personal favorite hike was to a small, nearby waterfall. We scrambled along a slightly over-grown hiking path getting twigs in our hair and leaves in our faces. Finally, we made it. I alone managed to cross the stream and climb up some rocks next to the waterfall. Still energetic, Mom got us to go on several more hiking trips. On the way we saw many native wildlife species. I, for one, was glad to head back to the house.

The last day was a memorable one. I spilled a kettle of boiling hot water on myself and got seriously burned. Later we met up with my great-aunt and great-uncle at a well-known hamburger shop. We all tried a lot of new things. For instance, fried grouper, fried catfish, bison, elk; things like that. We were all sorry when the week was over.

In late August, we all journeyed to Boston to get Hae-In settled in his Harvard dorm. Unpacking his stuff took a long time, but we finally set up all his things to Mom's satisfaction. On the 'Grand Tour', we met several of his friends. There were quite a lot for Hae-In!



So juicy sweet...

Then we feasted at a wonderful Pho restaurant and went to see the nearby sights like the biggest Curious George Shop, a cookie shop called Insomnia Cookies, and more. On the second chilly day, we traveled to Rockport to eat lobster and stroll along rocky beaches. It was simply wonderful. All of us kids saw the golden opportunity of staying up late and immediately took it. It's too bad our enjoyment was short-lived. We had to leave in a couple days. I can't wait until I can go to college and live the life of a college student!

Yennie Seong, the one and only.

Caleb's View

My biggest brother, Hae-In, is in Harvard. He has two roommates. He is doing very fine. We visit him sometimes and sometimes he also visits us. I met one of his roommates, Benny. Hae-In has to pay for almost everything, even the washer! When we visit him, he takes us around Harvard. One time we went to his church. It was my first time. I didn't go to Sunday school in it. We have gone to his room a couple times. I like the college Harvard, but I like Princeton better. MIT is kinda close to Harvard. Hae-In comes every holiday even New Year's Day. He went in a plane when he was going to Harvard. I goed along in the car. The airport wasn't so far. We buyed almost everything for him. Hae-In has two coats, one lamp that also cools you down, one Batman nightlight, one box of Kleenex, some candy, and some medicine. We also gave him one of our umbrellas and he sleeps in a bunk bed. When he visits our house he's mostly busy. I sometimes miss him.

Caleb is the youngest and a master of troublemaking.



Ready to fight!



What am I supposed to do?