

# Rechristening

she takes the Name.

tastes funny – the kind of funny  
without laughter. tastes bittersweet –  
a two-party compromise that  
satisfies all by pleasing none.  
tastes different – but promises ‘same’:  
an invisible Name they can  
say but not see.

she holds the Name.

feels how light It is in her hands,  
unburdened by the weight of her  
history; hollow. feels It catch  
in her throat – choke her – just for a  
second. feels the Name teeter on  
the crown of her head, unsteady  
and uncertain.

she learns the Name.

looks at the little lines and the  
curly curves of Its strange letters.  
looks at her red cardigan, her  
grey skirt, her black shoes. looks at the  
other girls she shares It with: three  
in her class, five in her year, one  
in the mirror.

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1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the Young Poets Category

2020 International Competitions - Wells Festival of Literature

[www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk/2020-competitions#young-poets-competition](http://www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk/2020-competitions#young-poets-competition)