

## **FSH COMMENTS 2014 27**

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:** This 55 word essay is cohesive and focused. The title “The Names We Call It,” contains some ambiguity, but it is an intriguing ambiguity that wants me to read further. Eventually the ambiguity is resolved, so I understand that the narrator is, indeed discussing schizophrenia. The various efforts at explanation that have preceded the formal label serve to show how difficult it is to settle on a diagnosis. The use of time (yesterday, today, tomorrow, a year in the future) is also well-handled, and contributes to the sense of unity in the piece. The mother’s lack of comprehension and anguish is understated, but still very powerful. I particularly liked the line about the “dark hole,” and the starkness of the phrase, “it will hurt.”

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR:** This 55 word piece, by the same author as XX works much better in my view. It is cohesive and focused. The title contains some ambiguity, but it is an intriguing ambiguity that wants me to read further. Eventually the ambiguity is resolved, so I understand that the narrator is, indeed discussing schizophrenia. The use of time (yesterday, today, tomorrow, a year in the future) is also well-handled, and contributes to the sense of unity in the piece. The mother’s lack of comprehension and anguish is understated, as in the other submission, but in this case the underlying emotion is conveyed very well. Maybe it’s only by way of comparison, but I thought this submission exemplifies what the 55 word essay does best – maintain a singular focus that captures a powerful interaction or compelling image.