

## ***Spinning Silver* Name Investigation & Reflection**

In *Spinning Silver*, names play an important role in terms of a character's identity as well as the power that they have over their individuality. Miriam is asked to give the Staryk girl a name, and the name she chooses, Rebekah, means "captivating" or "knotted cord," which is significant considering how names in the novel are seen to have power over people. (Let's not forget that the novel is based on Rumpelstiltskin after all.) Furthermore, the Staryk king intentionally keeps his name hidden. Knowing a person's name as well as the exchange of names is an underlying but important element to this novel.

### **Your Task:**

To explore the idea of names and their meaning, you will be investigating the meaning of your own name. For this assignment, you need to look up the meaning and origin of your first name and surname. After you investigate your first and last name (and middle name if you feel so inclined), you will write a short essay on what you found and how you feel it relates to and informs (or doesn't) who you are and your personality and character.

### **Your reflection must answer the following questions:**

- What does your name (first, middle, and last) mean? What are the origins of your names?
- What do people call you? Do people call you by your first name? Middle name? Nickname? (If you have a nickname which you go by, how did you come by that nickname?)
- How did you receive your name? Who named you and what was their inspiration? Are you named after a family member or are you, to quote *Game of Thrones*, the first of your name?
- How do you feel the meaning of your name informs (or doesn't) your identity? How do you feel the origin of your name or how you came by it signifies a part of who you are?

### **Furthermore, your reflection must:**

- Be written as reflection and be organized into paragraphs (do not copy the questions into a document and write your answer below!)
- Critically consider your name as it relates to how you perceive your identity or how you believe others perceive you.
- Be 2-3 pages double spaced and 11-12 point readable font.
- Be formatted according to the MLA style guide (use the Purdue OWL for reference)

## **Grading Criteria:**

### **A:**

A reflection that earns the grade of an A will show innovation and an advanced level of insight and analysis. A reflection that receives an A will answer all the questions in an organized fashion while focusing mainly on the question of how names relate to our identities. A-level work will exceed my expectations.

### **B:**

A reflection that earns the grade of a B will show some critical thinking and analysis without fully exploring the relationship between names and identity. A “B” reflection will meet expectations without presenting an original observation.

### **C:**

A reflection that earns the grade of C will meet some but not all expectations for the assignment. A reflection that earns a C might not answer all the questions or might present only summary without reflection to analysis.

### **D or F:**

A reflection that earns the grade of D or a failing grade will meet few to no expectations. A failing reflection will not meet the length requirement, or if it does will not address the assigned topic.