

Kiki

Kiki was the annoyance that plagued me since middle school
On the bus, I was taunted with it, kids waiting for a reaction
And at school, I'd ignore it , called out in my direction
Kiki was the irritation , I'd constantly correct to Akilah.

It was the aggravation that stumbled through adults' mouths
that their tongues have grown accustomed to
Kiki was the name that my brother used with disregard
that my cousins used with unawareness.

Kiki was the name that was once 'Kilah
that soon shortened itself, and follows me today
The name that's greeted me when coming home, second grade
Kiki was the little girl, who carried Barbies in her backpack

The name that cried and cried over papercuts
And drew on foggy windows during rainy days
The name whose only stories were about her cat...
Kiki is the title of childhood.