

# AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006  
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## American Life in Poetry: Column 180

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What's in a name? All of us have thought at one time or another about our names, perhaps asking why they were given to us, or finding meanings within them. Here Emmett Tenorio Melendez, an eleven-year-old poet from San Antonio, Texas, proudly presents us with his name and its meaning.

### My name came from. . .

My name came from my great-great-great-grandfather.  
He was an Indian from the Choctaw tribe.  
His name was Dark Ant.  
When he went to get a job out in a city  
he changed it to Emmett.  
And his whole name was Emmett Perez Tenorio.  
And my name means: Ant; Strong; Carry twice  
its size.

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