

**UVic Diversity Writing Contest 2009, Poetry Winner**

**By Yukari Tanji**

**My Name is Yukari**

I like my name

I like it when you call my name

I like it when you try to call my name

I like it for every way it's pronounced

I like it when you apologetically say

"I hope I'm saying your name right"

I like it when you try to memorise my name

"Eucalyptus, Ukraine, you-carry, you-curry...."

I like it when you ask what my name means

"It means 'good reason of the universe'"

I like it when you try to spell my name and get it almost right

"It was very nice meeting you, Ukari"

I like it when you know how to say my name in Chinese

"You-Jia-Li"

I like it when you try to learn how to say my name in Japanese

I like it when it's called in a Spanish way

I like it when it creates a conversation

"YUKARI....Is this a Japanese name?"

I like it even when you try to figure out easier way to call me

I like it when you try to get away with it by trying to call my middle name

“Japanese people don’t have a middle name.”

The truth is though, my name is a troublesome sometimes

A typical name in Japanese

Now I have to spell it out all the time

But I’ve never liked my name like this before

It makes me feel special

It reminds me of who I am

It reminds me of my dad who gave me this name

It connects me to people I meet everyday

My name is Yukari and I like my name everyday