Ashley Price

Humanities - 3/4

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**Ashley Price**

My name is Ashley Price. My first name is pronounced Ash-ley. Two syllables and six letters. I’ve always liked my name, but not always how it sounds. When a person says it very quietly it sounds pretty, but when someone says it loud or in a different accent it often sounds like someone spitting out a word they don’t want to say. I don’t like saying my name, because it doesn’t sound very pretty coming from my voice.

“Charleston was my favorite place I lived. Besides Spain of course.” My mother begins before going into the story of how I got my name. She explains how there are two big, grayish/bluish rivers (The Cooper River and the Ashley River), that go directly through the middle of the city. My parents had a cat. She was a brown and black, long haired tortoiseshell cat. She hissed more than she purred and even her purring sounded like a broken alarm clock trying to go off. Her name was Cooper, which isn’t a surprise considering that my parents adopted her in Charleston. When I was born, they tossed around a ton of names, but it always came back to the name Ashley because they loved the city of Charleston, South Carolina so much.

It was basically decided that the two of us would represent Charleston. The city is known as “The friendliest city” and “The most polite and hospitable city in America.” Which makes my name fitting, because being polite, hospitable and friendly are three characteristics I take pride in.

I also have another name, I know this because the people at Temple always call me by it. The name sounds like Ashley but I think it’s prettier. I only go by this name when I’m spoken to in Hebrew or my name is needed for a religious event. My Hebrew name is Ashira. It’s pronounced a-shee-rah. In the Hebrew language, Ashira means “rich,” “I will sing,” and comes from the name Asher meaning “blessed, happy and fortunate.” But just like my English name, my parents didn’t choose it for the meaning. They chose my Hebrew name because it sounds like my English name. And that, is how I got my name. Ashley Price.