

# Saratoga Loves

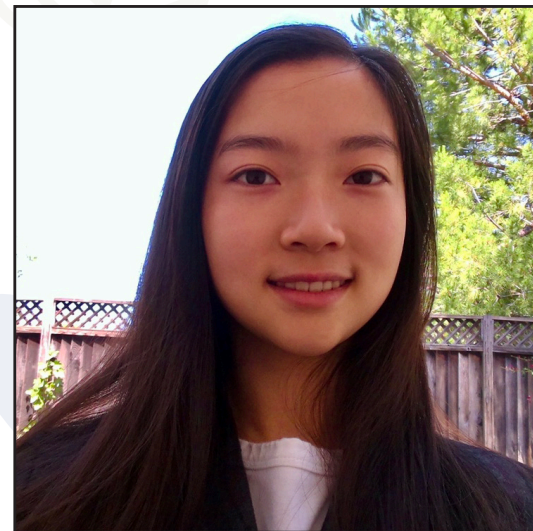
## Poetry

A poetry contest for students in grades kindergarten through 12 who live or attend school in Saratoga!

**Jenny Chan**

**2022 2nd Prize**

**Grades 9 - 12**



### **About the Author:**

I explore who I hope to be by reading. I study the colors and textures of emotion through poetry.

### **About the Poem:**

College applications; daily writing sparks creativity.

### **Poem:**

The name I was first given is my truest, though I never use it,  
nobody calls me by this Chinese name.

Cheng Jie Ling—  
yes, this name is most me.  
Cheng is my family name. I like to think of this word as an  
unbreakable string,

connecting my family and I  
to our ancestors

and to their other descendants, though  
they may all be only strangers to me.

My English name, Jenny Chan is the name everybody knows  
me as

You can find it on my passport and my driver's license  
—it is how I am labeled

on  
every  
legal  
document.

I am my names. I am the pair of delicately carved bamboo  
chopsticks beside a bowl of steaming xiao long bao,  
I am the stories my grandmother tells me about her  
university days at Nanjing,

I am the oily pepperoni pizza from last Friday's party  
I am the \$1 free-refills icy coca cola drink

I am my names.