

## Model Writing: What's in a Name?

### Tiernan

“Turny, where is my Turny James?” mom calls when she comes in from work. I look up from the couch. “I’m in here, Mom!” I say, and she runs in to hug me. My name is Tiernan, but sometimes she and my dad call me “Turny.” Apparently when I was a baby I couldn’t say my own name, and instead called myself “Turny.” Everyone thought it was so cute. But no one else calls me that now—just my parents when no one else is around.

The name Tiernan is Irish. My dad is 100% Irish, and my mom is half Irish, so that makes me 75% Irish. So the name fits me. The meaning of it is “Little Lord.” My parents say that describes me well, since I am the “little brother” and sometimes I act like I own everything. Coincidentally, when I was a small child, my favorite Halloween costume was a king’s crown and robe. My parents say I used to walk around the house wearing it no matter what holiday it was.

My parents didn’t have any special reason for choosing the name besides just liking it. They found it in an Irish baby name book. My mom said they also liked the name Kieran, but friends of theirs named their child Kieran so they didn’t want to copy them! I like Tiernan better than Kieran for me anyway. My dad is not named Tiernan, but his name does start with “T,” so we have the same initials. People say it makes sense, since I’m just like my dad. I like hearing that.

I don’t know anyone else with my name, but that’s okay. I’m used to not seeing my name on keychains and magnets in souvenir shops. Sometimes people can’t pronounce my name at first either—it’s the middle “n” that gets them. But once they hear it, they know it pretty easily. I think it’s a common last name, especially in Ireland. If I go there someday, I will look for it.

I like having a name that no one else has. And I like thinking that my parents picked it out of a whole book of names for me. Even though people stumble over it sometimes, I feel special knowing that I’m the only one with my name. Who knows—maybe I’ll be the one to make the name “Tiernan” famous, and then it will become more common!