ABSTRACT

A BOY NOT NAMED CUAUHTÉMOC

In A Boy Not Named Cuauhtémoc, James Espinoza explores his identity as a Chicano, often caught, simultaneously, within an American existence and the historical pull of his Mexican and indigenous heritage. From recalling his mother's struggles to learn English from TV infomercial videotapes, to questioning the origins and relevance of his name, to comparing his family's experiences with the border patrol to Pancho Villa's life as an outlaw, this series of essays intertwine personal narrative with reflection to present cultural loss and discovery.

James Espinoza December 2008