

"Taking Back Language" began as an experiment. As someone with a slight lisp, could I write a story that I could read "perfectly"? When I was a graduate student at Notre Dame, I participated in a number of readings, and I was always self-conscious about the way I spoke. So I set out to write a story without the letter S or any S-sound. The character of Penelope emerged and I gave her a lisp. As I worked through her story of struggling with language, I got a bit closer to working through my own struggle.