

Katie Kotynski

Black Hole for Nona

Fiction

Every other Saturday we visited Nona, our Italian grandmother, whose speech was littered with soft “ahs” at the end of each word, as in “bread-ah” or “carpet-ah,” tiring us of asking “What?” as we didn’t understand her accent. Instead of visiting with her, we ignored her lingering eyes—my two brothers and I—while we clandestinely robbed her candy dish, rifled through her crochet basket, played tug-o-war with the embroidery floss still attached to the pillowcase she hadn’t finished, and broke her only gardening spade as we dug to China in her backyard.

I’m pretty sure our hole, in her, is still there.

Katie Kotynski has worn several hats in public and private education K-12 and higher education: assessment specialist, adjunct instructor, technology coordinator, journalism and at-risk instructor, as well as librarian. Now retired from K-12, Kotynski still teaches workshops and adjunct classes at the university level as well as coordinating the state educational technology conference. Her passion remains educational technology and writing. Visit her website at www.conferencecorner.weebly.com.

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