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Arbitrary Names for Complex Emotions

August Smith
Western Michigan University

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I am under an umbrella of awesome doubt most of the time. I avoid interacting with strangers because it makes me feel like a forbidden word scribbled with gel-pen in a grade-school dictionary. And these days we all feel like novel characters—not actual characters but just the literal words printed in ink on a yellowing page. Or perhaps we feel like the digital ghosts, haunting our friends and shedding electronic tears as some vague approximation of emotion. The Wikipedia page for “emotion” is almost as long as the page for “Star Wars” and that might be because it’s much easier to write about Darth Vader than about sadness. If we follow this logic then every poem should be about Darth Vader. We have all felt an emotion that can only be described as “Darth Vader”. It is something like a bittersweet sadness that makes you breathe heavily.

August Smith