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Cover photo of young Kik

**Origami Poems Project**

**WE ALSO STUDIED  
RELIGION  
BY KIK WILLIAMS  
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## **WE ALSO STUDIED RELIGION**

**BY  
KIK  
WILLIAMS**



### **Religious Studies**

Between rolling rags  
Into bandages  
For the lepers  
Collecting for poor  
African orphans  
Lectures on  
Marrying  
Outside the church  
And silent retreats  
Where priests  
Would tell us to  
Hold on to our virginity  
So we wouldn't be  
Known as Lucy Goosies

Between daily mass  
And evening rosaries  
And any other excuse  
To drag us into chapel  
We also studied  
Religion  
I just remember  
Being afraid of  
Going to hell  
And embarrassed  
To go into  
The confessional  
'd make up some bull  
Shit sins so  
I could pretend  
There was a reason  
To this madness

### **School Rules**

Up at 5:30  
Strip the bed  
Then make it again  
With hospital  
Corners  
Tight enough  
To bounce a  
Dime

And the nuns  
Checked

File into mass  
Six a.m. sharp  
Don't laugh  
At Sister  
Franny Joe  
Head bowed  
In sleep

Some things just don't  
Take  
But it was good to know  
That she didn't think  
I was a lazy not so bright  
Girl  
The art came naturally  
And maybe that was  
Our connection  
I recently found her on  
Facebook  
She's married to an ex  
Priest  
And sells insurance  
I can see giving up  
The habit  
But art?

### **Art**

Sister Constance Mary  
Was my art teacher  
She was the prettiest  
Nun at school  
She had a twin sister  
Who would come  
To visit  
And we would all giggle  
And goggle to see what  
Connie would look like  
With hair and bosoms  
She used to sit up nights  
Struggling to teach me  
Biology and Math and  
Spelling

Stockings and  
Heels must be  
Worn at dinner  
(Eyebrow pencil  
Lines up  
The back of  
The legs)  
No pierced  
Ears  
(Cover them with a headband)  
Definitely no  
Patent leather

Clean white gloves  
And white veils  
Friday Benediction  
Silence in the halls  
After 5pm  
Roseries on knees  
9pm before  
Lights out at 9:30

Dad's rules at home  
I don't care what you do  
Just don't get caught