

What's in a name? Everything!

Learning one another's names is one way to address some of these questions. Names are part of our identity! When children walk into a classroom and hear their teacher greet them by name or see their names on a table, a cubby, a bulletin board, a name tag, they begin to breathe easier as they realize, "Someone knows who I am." Taking time to learn names helps to build both relationships and community—factors that have a positive impact on learning. From Kevin Henkes' classic *Chrysanthemum* to *My Name is Yoon*, by Helen Recorvits, the following books describe how characters deal with challenges related to their names. All of the stories highlight the importance of names and what they reveal about their owners!

PICTURE BOOKS

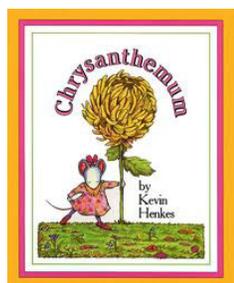
My Name is Sangoel, by Karen Lynn Williams

(grades 1–3)

School becomes less stressful for a refugee from Sudan, when he helps his classmates learn how to pronounce his name.

The Name Jar, by Yangsook Choi (grades 2–3)

Unhei's classmates encourage her to embrace her Korean name, rather than taking an American name. This story illustrates the positive impact of a strong and supportive classroom community.

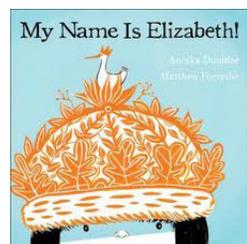


Chrysanthemum, by Kevin Henkes (grades K–1)

Chrysanthemum is proud of her name until her classmates make fun of it.

My Name is Yoon, by Helen Recorvits (grades 2–3)

Yoon feels disconnected from everything at school until she reveals her Korean name to her classmates.



My Name is Elizabeth, by Annika Dunklee (grades K–2)

Elizabeth loves her name and is not shy about speaking up and correcting people when they use unauthorized nicknames like "Betsy," or "Lizzie."

Jack's Talent, by Maryann Leffler (grades K–1)

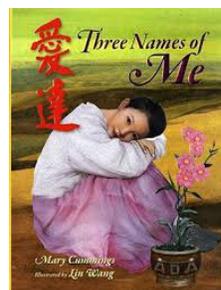
Jack's teacher helps him discover his special talent for remembering names.

CHAPTER BOOKS

My Name is María Isabel, by Alma Flor Ada

(grades 3–4)

María Isabel finds the courage to speak up when her teacher and her classmates call her by the wrong name.



The Three Names of Me, by Mary Cummings (grades 2–4)

Ada explains the stories behind her different names. One name was her given name in China, another, the name she was given in the orphanage, and the third is the name given by her adoptive parents.

NOVELS

Becoming Naomi Leon, by Pam Muñoz Ryan

(grades 5+)

Naomi copes with many challenges, including having what she thinks is the "funniest last name in the universe." She overcomes her challenges with positive thinking.