

Your Name is a Song

Written By: Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

Illustrated By: Luisa Uribe

Synopsis: Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her beautiful name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to go back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the musicality of African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern names on their lyrical walk home through the city. Empowered by this newfound understanding, the young girl is ready to return the next day to share her knowledge with her class.--Jacket flap.

Suggested Reading Date: Beginning of School Year

Activity Descriptions:

- **Sing Your Name.** Have students create their name song and teach it to others in the class. This book could also be used in collaboration with the music teacher.
- **Decorate Your Name.** Have the students create their own name tag that includes how to say it (phonetically). They can decorate the letters in their name and/or draw things they like around it.
- **Find Your Nameday.** Namedays are celebrated in some countries more than birthdays. There are several sites where you can learn about namedays and find your day (links below). Note: if your name is not listed, some of the sites have ways to request to add a name!

Related Websites:

- Author pronounces the names in the book: <https://www.theinnovationpress.com/yournameisasongvideo>
- Author Podcast recording about names (for teacher/librarians): https://youtu.be/_r45vZcgoaA
- American Nameday Calendar: <http://www.americannamedaycalendar.com/index.html>
- My Name Day: <https://www.mynameday.com/index.html>
- Happy Name Day: <http://happynameday.com/index.php>
- Author Website: <https://jamilahthewriter.com/>
- Illustrator Website: <https://luisauribe.com/>

Text to Text Connections:

My Name is Sangoel by Karen Lynn Williams

My Name is Yoon by Helen Recorvits

The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal

Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie

Created By: Dave Sonnen