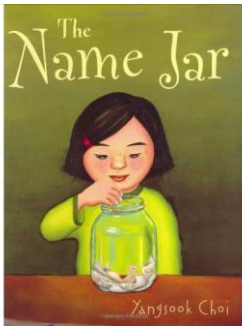


The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi



ISBN: 978-0-440-41799-6 (2001)

Grade levels: K to 4

Synopsis:

Having just arrived from Korea with her family, Unhei is anxious about making friends and worried that no one will be able to pronounce her name. Instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she decides to pick a new name.

Pre-reading activities:

a) Anticipation questions

- Have you ever felt embarrassed to tell others about your name? Have you felt proud? Why did you feel like this?

b) Illustration activity

- How do you think that you would feel on your first day of a new school in a new country? Draw a picture of your face.

Post-reading classroom discussion questions:

a) Understanding the story

- Why did Unhei not introduce herself on the first day of school?
- Why did she get a jar full of names put on her desk?
- Do you think that Unhei should use her Korean name or should she change it to an English name? Why or why not?

b) Transforming your thinking

- Would you change your name if it was unfamiliar to other people so that you could fit in with the group?
- Would you change your name if you didn't like it?
- Has someone ever mispronounced your name? If so, how did you feel? What did you do about it?
- Do you know the meaning of your name? Was there a reason why you were given your name? If you don't know, ask your family when you go home tonight.

c) Deepening your thinking

- Can you think of any other reasons why someone who is new to Canada might be teased? How might these be related to their race or culture?
- If you were a witness to one of these teasing incidents, what could you do to be a positive change-maker, rather than a silent witness (bystander)?