

LESSON 1

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

Students will be introduced to the importance of names and how names can be a part of identity. Through songwriting and portrait-making, students will reflect on important names in their lives.



Read *Your Name is a Song* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

DISCUSSION

- Who are some of the different characters in this book, and what are their names?
- What was the message in this book? Is it okay to ask someone how to pronounce their name?
- What do you love about your name?

Complete the “Retell the Story” template on page 18 to map out the beginning, middle and end of the story.

Create your “Name Song”

- Create your own song using the lyrics below. If you need inspiration, think of your favorite song and use that tune. Don’t forget to add a title!
A: “Hello”
B: “Hello”
Together: “What’s your name?”
A: “My name is Alex (insert your name)”
B: “My name is Sydney (insert caregiver’s name)”
A: “Sydney?”
B: “Yes, Sydney! Alex?”
A: “Yes, Alex!”
Together: “Nice to see you!”
- Before you start each week’s lesson, sing this song with your caregiver.

Craft a Name Portrait

1. Think of 3 friends, family members, or pets. Write down each of their names on a different sheet of paper.
2. Brainstorm 3 things for each name that makes them unique. Draw these specific things around their name to create a very unique name portrait!

Example:

My dog’s name is Coco, so I will write her name down nice and large in the middle of the paper. I know that she likes to eat blueberries, chase tennis balls and loves to snuggle, so I will do my best to draw blueberries, Coco with a tennis ball, and me giving Coco a hug!

Perform

Go through your pre-performance checklist handout on page 17!

1. Pick one of the name portraits you just created. What would their unique song be?
2. Think of a tune and a couple of sentences that describe them best.
3. Sing this new, hit song to your caregiver or record it. Hold up their name portrait while you sing!

Example: (To the tune of “Rain, Rain, Go Away”)

Coco likes to eat.
I will give her blueberries.
I will snuggle her all day.
Only until she wants to play!