

Building Welcoming Schools

Two Lessons from the Toolkit

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Today's Agenda

- Trauma-Informed Schools- Getting Started
- Building Empathy and Understanding in the Classroom
- Welcoming Book-Lesson Plan and Activities
- Where Does Your Name Come From- Lesson Plan and Activities
- Reflection and Brainstorming



Trauma-Informed Concepts

- Discuss the differences between immigration and forced migration (e.g. refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, etc.)
- Some refugee cultures consider extended families, such as cousins, as siblings. “My sister” may be referring to an aunt’s daughter, but the relationship can be just as close.
- Talk about what resiliency means and how students can help foster resiliency among one another.
- Be neutral and make modifications as necessary.
- Careful monitoring of students’ reactions to questions is a good idea.
- Nobody should feel singled out. If there is only one or two newcomers make sure they will be comfortable with lessons/activities.



Welcoming Book

- **Description:** How can we welcome newcomers to our school and community? In this activity, students will reflect on what it means and feels like to be welcomed and create an orientation book to the school for newcomers.
- **Objective:** Students will be able to create a classroom and community welcoming project.



The Arrival- Empathy for the Newcomer

- Introduce the activity to students by asking them to think about a time when they first arrived to a new place like school or a different home. Have them close their eyes to imagine and ask students to silently remember what it was like to be new to a place. Guiding questions can assist them. For example, what did this new place sound like? Who was around them at the time? What were they doing? Did they want to go to this new place? Did they meet new people?
- After students have imagined, ask them to share their story with a partner or with the class. Then ask the class: how did it feel to be a new person in a new place? Was there anything anyone did to help them feel welcomed?



The Arrival- Empathy for the Newcomer

- Tell students that the feelings they expressed (loneliness, uncertainty, excitement, fear) can be similar to how it feels to be a newcomer to a new country. To help them understand, explain that they are going to read a few pages of a picture book, *The Arrival*, together.



The Arrival

By Shaun Tan



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Being a Welcomer

- We've all been newcomers at some point.
- Gather ideas of how one can feel welcomed.



Sample Welcoming Book pages:

- *Draw a school map*
- *Create a crossword of key words*
- *Prepare a guide of “Who to go to for...?”*
- *Create a visual of clubs and activities with meeting locations and times*
- *Explain key school holidays using symbols and dates*



Bios

- At the end of your book (or video) have students write a short bio and a short statement about how they welcome newcomers.





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Upper School/Adult Modifications

- Use Welcoming Stories
- Listen to testimonials
- Gather ideas that worked in making newcomers feel welcomed
- Use video or other multimedia.



Using Literature/Testimonials

- How was the writer's journey to the U.S difficult? Use ***at least one*** specific example to support the claim.
- How did someone help ease the transition to the U.S.?
- What was one welcoming action that the writer did for someone else arriving to the U.S.?



Extensions and Other Ideas

- Use this activity for a staff development
- Encourage your school's Parent Association to create a welcoming book for new families
- Create a speaker panel for students
- Let all students know about and participate in the Welcoming Book (activities)
- Participate in Welcoming Week



Where Does Your Name Come From?

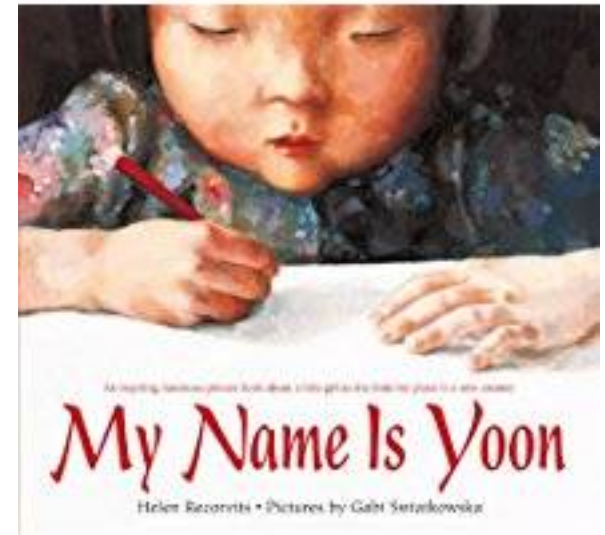
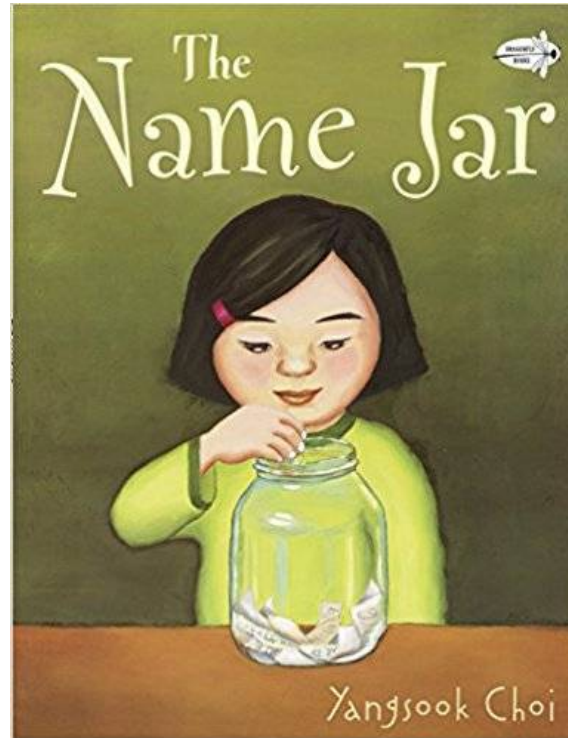
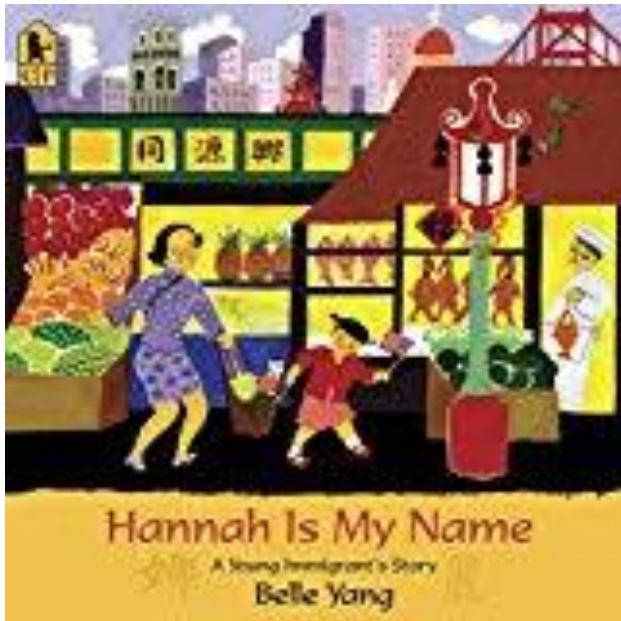


Where Does Your Name Come From

- **Description:** Many people's names have interesting origins. Participants will share the story of where their name comes from and what their name means. This activity can be used as an ice-breaker or with a group that knows each other well; it helps to build intercultural respect and understanding.
- **Objective:** Students will be able to discover something important about their classmates in order to deepen peer understanding. High School students will better understand the importance of pronouncing names correctly and the tie between names and identity.



Where Does Your Name Come From



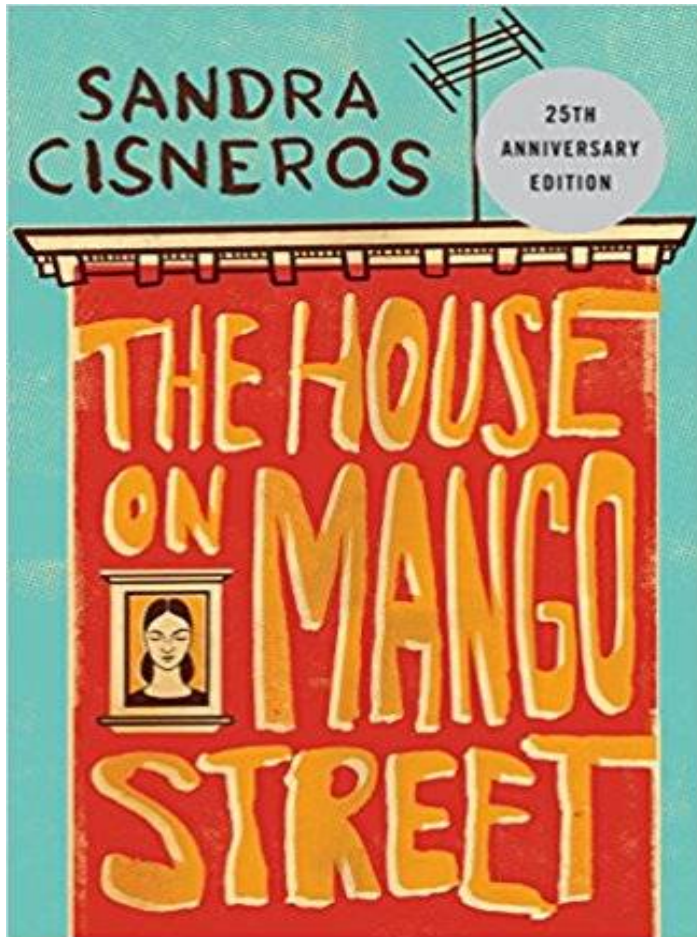
Elementary

- Were you named after a person? If so, who was that person? When and where did they live? How many people in your family have the same first name as you?
- What meaning does your name have?
- What other names were being considered when you were born?
- Do you like your name? Why or why not?
- If you had to change your name which name would you choose and why?
- Do you have a nickname? If so, how did you get it?





Upper School/Adult



- Chapter 4



Upper School/ Adult

- *Fumble-Bumblers, Arrogant Manglers, Calibrators, and Micro-Aggressions* from the blog post or the podcast “How We Pronouce Names and Why it Matters”.



Be a Calibrator

- You will make mistakes, you are human.

Microaggressions are the everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership.



Upper School/Adult

- Have students discuss why names are important to identity and why pronouncing names is so important. Have students discuss why having a good understanding of the meaning behind a name is important to a person's identity.



Let's Brainstorm

On the Padlets share:

- Ways you could create a Welcoming Book and/or;
- Activities & strategies you currently engage in to pronounce and use and students' names.



Some Other Resources

- <https://www.teachingbooks.net> has authors pronouncing names
- My name my identity-
<https://www.mynamemyidentity.org>



Wrap Up and Stay in Touch

- claire@lmnoeducation.com
- Don't forget to like Art & Remembrance on Facebook and sign up to learn about the new lessons/resources at artandremembrance.org
- Learn more about welcoming week and how to participate at WelcomingAmerica.org