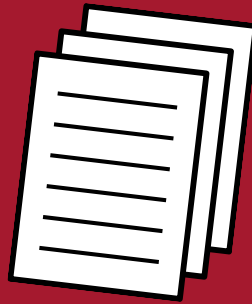


# LESSON SPARK



## THE BEAUTY OF OUR NAMES



HENKES, K. (1991). CHRYSANTHEMUM. HARPERCOLLINS.

[HTTPS://BOOKS.GOOGLE.CA/BOOKS?ID=QHXHAAAAMAAJ](https://books.google.ca/books?id=qhxhAAAAMAAJ)



# THE BEAUTY OF OUR NAMES

**Big Idea(s):** What will students understand after the lesson is over (enduring understandings)?

"Everyone has a unique story to share" ([British Columbia Ministry of Education, 2016, p. 2](#)).

"Stories and other texts help us learn about ourselves and our families" ([British Columbia Ministry of Education, 2016, p. 2](#)).

**Curricular Competencies:** What students will do (activities to deepen understanding / product)

"Recognize the importance of story in personal, family, and community identity" ([British Columbia Ministry of Education, 2016, p. 2](#)).

**Content:** what students will know (knowledge, definitions, theories, laws)

Understand "elements of story" ([British Columbia Ministry of Education, 2016, p. 2](#)).

## Structure / Activity:



Ask students if they know the meaning behind their names. Read the book *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes. The story follows a girl who at first loves her name, but after being bullied about it, starts to dislike it. Ask students if there was every a time they didn't love their name. Discuss the difference between playful name play (e.g. Mary-Ary-Bo-Berry, Banana-fana-fo-Ferry...) and ridiculing someone's name (which is bullying behaviour). Playfulness is for everyone, bullying targets one person. Discuss the different forms of bullying like cyberbullying. **Extend:** You can watch [What's Cyberbullying?](#) with your students.

Talk about how special each person's name is and how there is only one person like them in the whole world! Why should we love our names? How are they a part of our identity? How do we manage when someone has a longer or harder to pronounce name than ours?

Have students ask their families how they got their names. These can be shared stories in class the next day. For an in class art project have students bubble write their names on a large sheet of paper and colour it as they wish (solid colour, pattern, objects etc.) and decorate their drawing with things that they love. Display these drawings in the class as a reminder of how differently beautiful everyone is. Invite students to "write back" by adding something they love about each others' names on their name-art.



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*This Lesson Spark was developed by Tala Adlouni.*