

# My Name is Yoon



Author:  
**Helen Recorvits**

Illustrator:  
**Gabi Swiatkowska**

## Awards

Ezra Jack Keats Book Award, Illustrator Winner, 2004  
ALSC Notable Children's Books, Commended, 2004  
Notable Books for a Global Society, Selection, 2004

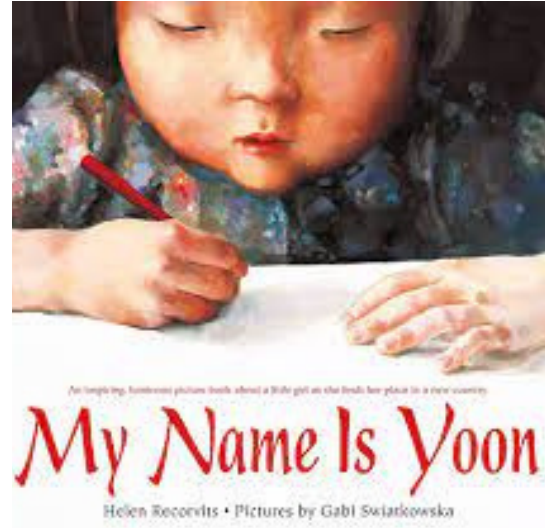
## Vocabulary

symbols, wisdom, patient

## Reviews

[Kirkus Reviews](#)

[Publishers Weekly](#)



## Summary

Yoon loves the way her name looks like dancing figures in Korean, but when her father tells her she must write in English, she tries out different names for herself—*cat*, *cupcake*, *bird*. This poignant picture book highlights the struggles and joys of settling into a new place.

## FAIR Standard

DV.K-2.6 I appreciate foods, music, and people that come from different parts of the world.

## Discussion

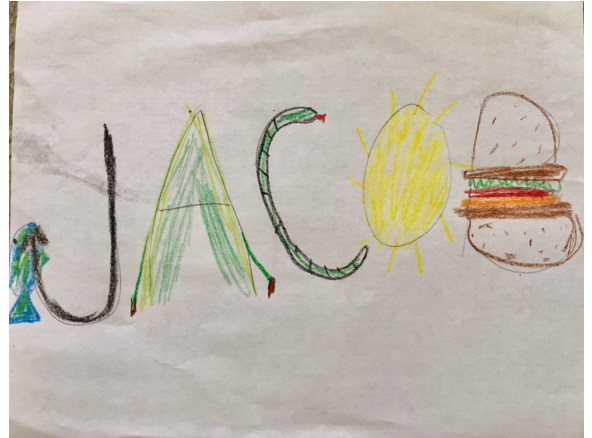
1. Why are names important to us? How did Yoon feel about her name after her family immigrated to America?
2. Why did Yoon choose to write *cat*, *bird*, and *cupcake* instead of her name?
3. Yoon's teacher helped her start to feel differently about her new school and home in America. What did she do to help Yoon feel comfortable in her new home? Have you ever had a teacher or friend who helped you feel better? How could you do the same for others?

## Discussion

4. Yoon thought, *Maybe different is good too*. Have you ever tried something different and realized how much you liked it?
  5. Look at the picture on the last page of this book. Does Yoon still feel like her name means Shining Wisdom even though she is in a new place and it looks different? How do you know?
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## Activities

1. Yoon says, “My name looks happy in Korean. The symbols dance together.” Use symbols or other pictures of things you like to create your name or the name of someone you love.



2. Yoon learned to write her name in English to fit in at her new school. Brainstorm some other ways that her classmates could have helped welcome her. Perhaps they could have learned some Korean words while teaching her English. Use the [Korean alphabet](#) to write your own name or the name of a friend.
3. Yoon wants to be a cat and hide in a corner. She then wants to be a bird to fly away back home to Korea. She wants to be a cupcake so the other kids will clap for her. What is something you would like to be and why? Draw yourself as this item and write 2-3 sentences.

Challenge: Act out your item and have a friend or classmate guess what you are.