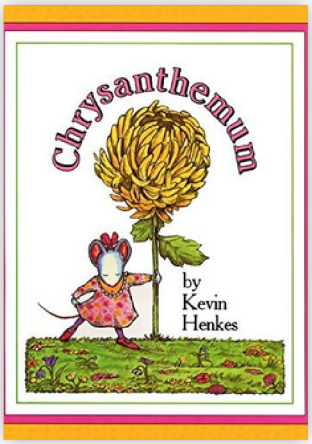
Read Aloud Guide for Families



Chrysanthemum

Author: *Kevin Henkes*

Illustrator: *Kevin Henkes*

Themes: Belonging, Bullying and teasing, Family, Identity, Self-worth

Book Brief: A young mouse named Chrysanthemum loves her name until classmates tease her about it at school. With her family's support and a beloved music teacher's help, she learns to treasure who she is.

READ ALOUD

Before Reading: Build Background

- Tell your child that a chrysanthemum is a real flower, sometimes called a "mum." The girl in this story is named after it.
- Talk about how your child's own name was chosen. Ask what they know about their name's meaning or story.

While Reading: Make Connections

- How do you think Chrysanthemum feels when her classmates laugh at her name?
- What do her parents do when Chrysanthemum comes home sad?
- Why do you think Mrs. Twinkle praises the name Chrysanthemum?

After Reading: Ask Questions

- Have you ever felt different like Chrysanthemum? What helped you feel better?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

If your child enjoyed this book:

- Make a name banner together. Help your child write their name in big letters and decorate each one. Talk about what makes their name special.

Let them explore more titles by Kevin Henkes:

- Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse (1996)
- Wemberly Worried (2000)
- Kitten's First Full Moon (2005)

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