

# My Name Is María Isabel

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Latino Culture, Family, Transitions, Social Situations, School

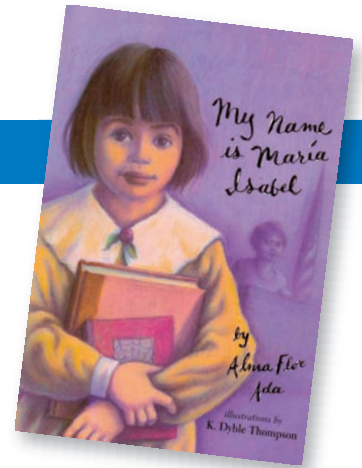
**Grade Level:** 2nd to 5th grade

**Book Brief:** For María, switching to a new school is more difficult than usual when the teacher decides to call her Mary.

**Author:**  
Alma Flor Ada

**Illustrator:**  
K. Dyble Thompson

**Content Connections:**  
Writing, Social Studies



## TIME TO READ!

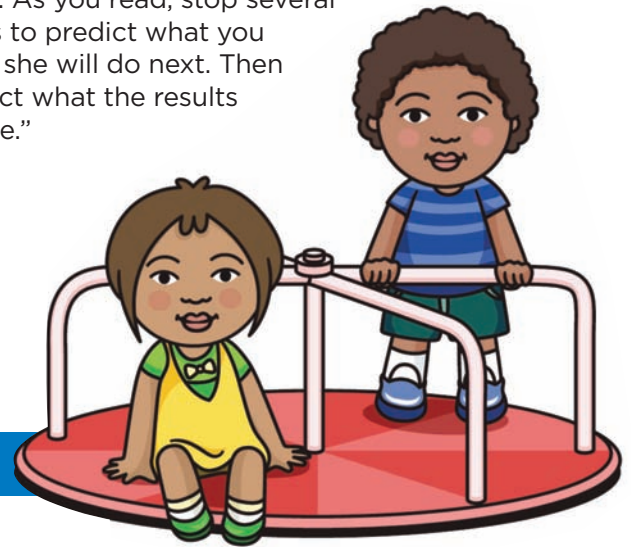
### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the text based on the title and front cover illustrations. What is the story about? Who is the little girl on the cover? What's in the background behind her? What does the title mean? What kind of name is María Isabel?

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask if any students know why they were given their name. Were they named after family members? Do any students know what their names mean? You may also want to discuss what it's like to be the new kid at school. How did the students feel on their first day of school or their first day at this school?

**Vocabulary:** attentively, troublesome, disappointed, misunderstanding, nervously, menorah, pageant

**Purpose for Reading:** Students can practice making predictions. "María Isabel has a difficult problem to solve. As you read, stop several times to predict what you think she will do next. Then predict what the results will be."



## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

Have students complete the attached prediction chart while reading.

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Revisit the purpose: "As you read, you made predictions about how María Isabel would solve her problems. Were you right?" Compare students' predictions to what actually happened. Have students explain the reasoning behind their predictions.

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask these open-ended questions: "What do you think her father meant when he told María that her teacher at school was like her mother at home?" "Why do you think it was easier for Antonio to adjust to his new school than María?" "Why did María take so long to tell her teacher how she felt?" "What other ways could María have found to let her teacher know what she was feeling?"

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.



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# PREDICTION CHART

Problem

My Prediction

What Really Happened

Problem	My Prediction	What Really Happened