

My Name Is María Isabel

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

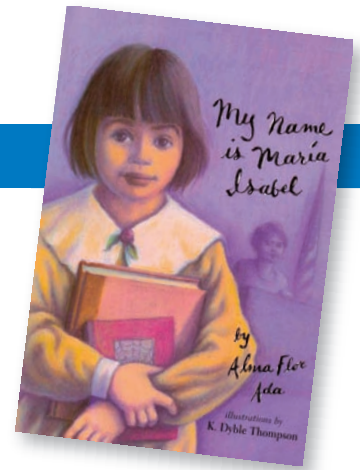
Themes: Latino Culture, Family, Transitions, Social Situations, School

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



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, make connections: Has your family ever moved? How did your child feel as the new kid at school? Was it hard to fit in?

While reading, look at the pictures: There aren't many pictures in this book, so the few pictures there are must be really important. What scenes from the book do the pictures show?

Why do you think the artist chose those scenes?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why did María's teacher call her Mary?
- ◆ Why do you think her teacher calling her Mary bothered María so much?
- ◆ What would you have done if you were in María's situation?
- ◆ Is your name important to you? Why or why not?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Materials: camera or camera phone, scissors, tape, paper

Take pictures of letters around town (in signs, on billboards, etc.). You can also take some pictures of your favorite places. Print or develop the pictures and make a collage of your name. If you don't have a printer, use a free website like www.smilebox.com to make an online scrapbook of your pictures.

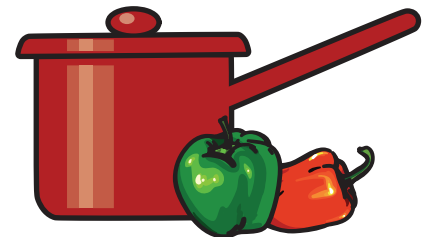
OUT AND ABOUT

Talk with your child about the importance of their name. What does it mean? How did you come up with it? Are they named after a relative or a close family friend? Did you almost name your child something else? Share stories about your own name or the names of other family members.

RED BEANS AND RICE

Ingredients: 1 cup cooked rice, 1 can red beans (drained), olive oil, 1/4 cup chopped green or red pepper, chopped onion, 1 garlic clove, 1/4 tsp. coriander, pepper to taste

Cook peppers and onions in a pan with a little olive oil. When softened, add finely chopped garlic clove. Cook for another minute. Add red beans, 2 tbsp. water, coriander and pepper. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Add beans to cooked rice. Mix and eat.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

I Love Saturdays y domingos (2004), *Dancing Home* (2011), *Yours Truly, Goldilocks* (2001), *With Love, Little Red Hen* (2004), *The Lizard and the Sun* (1999).



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