

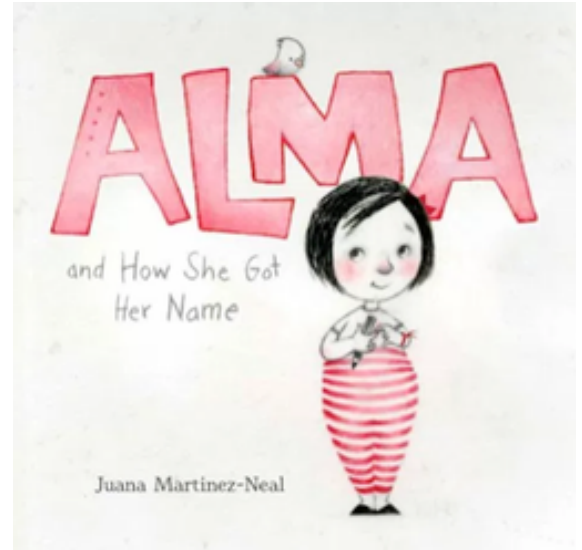


# ALMA AND HOW SHE GOT HER NAME

## JUANA MARTINEZ-NEAL

### SUMMARY

Alma has a very long name. It's a total mouthful and it doesn't always fit on the page. When she complains to her father, he explains the history of each part of her name to her and why each part is important. As she learns about the ancestors whose names she carries, Alma finds aspects of herself in each of them and learns to appreciate the power of those who came before her, as well as the power she has within herself.



### Questions:

1. Have you ever disliked your name? How would it feel to dislike your name? How would you feel every time you had to write it down? How would you feel being called by that name?
2. How would it feel to be named after family members you never met? Would you like hearing stories about them?
3. How would it feel to want to see the whole world and never get to leave your hometown? How do you think her great-grandmother felt whenever her son came back from another trip? Does everyone in the world get a chance to travel?
4. Do you want to travel to other places like Alma? Where would you want to go? What would you want to see there?
5. Is it important to find love in your heart for as many people as possible?
6. Do you like to do art like Alma and her grandfather? If not, do you like looking at the art that other people have made?
7. Is it easy to stand up against people in power? Is it sometimes the right thing to do? What if the people in power or the laws or the rules are unfair and wrong for many people? Should you stand up for what is right, even if it doesn't affect you?
8. Is it important to know the history of your family and where you come from? How would it feel to know nothing about those who came before you? How would it feel to know many stories about them? Would it maybe help you feel connected to your family?