



THE NAME JAR

YANGSOOK CHOI

SUMMARY

When Unhei moves to America from Korea, she knows that things will be hard. What she didn't anticipate is that even her name won't be easy. When kids joke and laugh and can't say her name right, she decides to choose a new name, an American name. But which name should she choose?

Questions:

1. How would it feel to be going to school and not recognize anything out the window? Would you feel more nervous or excited?
2. Have you ever gotten a present from your grandma or grandpa that was special to you? If you were nervous, how would holding that object make you feel? How would you feel if you lost it?
3. How would you feel if you were new and no one could say your name properly? How would it feel if instead of trying harder, they laughed and made jokes about your name?
4. If you were too nervous to walk into the room on your first day of school, how would it feel if someone took your hand and walked you in?
5. Even though Unhei can understand the words the teacher and kids are saying, does that mean she feels comfortable with what people are saying?
6. Is there something that makes you different from your classmates? Do you feel self-conscious about that thing and wish you could change it?
7. How do you think Unhei feels about her name after talking to Mr. Kim?
8. How does Unhei feel when she finds the name jar that the other kids made? Is that their way of welcoming her to the class? Do you think the other kids are excited, hoping she picks the name they put in the jar?
9. How do you think Unhei felt when the curly-haired boy wanted to see her name stamp and keep the paper? How does Unhei feel to have a friend?
10. Would you want to draw your name out of a jar without looking? It's true that you didn't get to choose your name when you were born. Do you like your name? What would it be like if you didn't like your name?
11. How do you think Unhei feels when Joey says her name properly?
12. Do you think that Joey learning her name is part of why she felt confident enough to use her real name? How do you think she feels telling all the kids her name?
13. How do you think Unhei feels when Joey brings the name jar back? How would it make her feel to get to give Korean nicknames to her classmates?

