

June 2020

Dear Future Sixth Grade Students,

Welcome to NAMS! All incoming sixth grade students are required to complete a summer enrichment assignment. This will help your team of teachers get to know you a little better outside of the classroom.

Please follow the attached directions for completing your summer enrichment. All summer enrichment materials will be accessed online and passed in the first week of school.

We look forward to talking with you about the assignments in September. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Grade Six Teachers



*SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!*

## Enrichment Assignments (must complete all):

**#1:** Read the excerpt below titled “My Name” by Sandra Cisneros from the novel The House on Mango Street and then answer the questions.

In English my name means hope. In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting. It is like the number nine. A muddy color. It is the Mexican records my father plays on Sunday mornings when he is shaving, songs like sobbing.

It was my great-grandmother's name and now it is mine. She was a horse woman too, born like me in the Chinese year of the horse--which is supposed to be bad luck if you're born female-but I think this is a Chinese lie because the Chinese, like the Mexicans, don't like their women strong.

My great-grandmother. I would've liked to have known her, a wild, horse of a woman, so wild she wouldn't marry. Until my great-grandfather threw a sack over her head and carried her off. Just like that, as if she were a fancy chandelier. That's the way he did it.

And the story goes she never forgave him. She looked out the window her whole life, the way so many women sit their sadness on an elbow. I wonder if she made the best with what she got or was she sorry because she couldn't be all the things she wanted to be. Esperanza. I have inherited her name, but I don't want to inherit her place by the window.

At school they say my name funny as if the syllables were made out of tin and hurt the roof of your mouth. But in Spanish my name is made out of a softer something, like silver, not quite as thick as my sister's name Magdalena--which is uglier than mine. Magdalena who at least--can come home and become Nenny. But I am always Esperanza. I would like to baptize myself under a new name, a name more like the real me, the one nobody sees. Esperanza as Lisandra or Maritza or Zeze the X. Yes. Something like Zeze the X will do.

**Questions on “My Name” (type the answers or write them out):**

1. What is the girl’s name in the excerpt?
2. How did she get her name?
3. How does the girl feel about her name?
4. Which paragraph in the excerpt do you like the best? Explain why.
5. Explain what your name means. Does it have a special meaning in a foreign language? How did you get your name? (you may need to speak with someone in your family to find out some of these answers!)
6. Do you have a nickname? How did you arrive at that nickname?
7. If you could change your name, what would you change it to? Would a name change make you feel differently about yourself? Why? Try to include a personal story about your name.
8. Has your name ever gotten you into trouble or made you feel emotional?

**#2** Read the Poem “What My Name Means” by Jennifer Dignan and then answer the questions.

1 My sister thinks my name means

"sharer of back seats and secrets."

My mom thinks my name means

"needs a lot of rides to gymnastics" and

5 "loves comic books, like me."

My dad thinks my name means

"weirdly obsessed with that band Imagine Dragons" and

"loves corny jokes, like me."

My cat thinks my name means "always good for a snuggle."

10 My best friend thinks my name means

"tells me the truth no matter what; best giggle in the world."

My art teacher thinks my name means "gifted."

My music teacher thinks my name means

"definitely tries hard."

15 My neighbor thinks my name means

"kid who cuts the grass."

My dentist thinks my name means

"kid who needs to floss."

I think

20 there's some stuff that they left out, like

"dreams of life in a big city" and

"lies awake at night sometimes,

worrying about the whales" and

"having doubts about gymnastics" and

25 "loves nothing more than to close her eyes

and listen to the rain."

## Questions on “What My Name Means” (type the answers or write them out):

1. What do lines 1-2 reveal about the speaker and her sister? Explain.
2. Reread lines 3-8. What do the lines about the speaker's mom have in common with the lines about the speaker's dad? Why do you think the speaker might have chosen to do this?
3. In your own words, explain what lines 12-14 reveal about the speaker.
4. Does the speaker seem to agree with the way other people see her? Explain.
5. Now consider lines 19-26, in which the speaker reveals what she thinks her name means. How are these meanings of the speaker's name different from all the other meanings listed in the poem?

## #3 Final Product - Choose 1 of the following to complete:

- Write your own “What My Name Means” poem- use the poem provided as a model
- Write a 2 paragraph letter introducing yourself to your new teachers
- Create a postcard/Google Slide introducing yourself to your new teachers in a minimum of 6 sentences (add interesting and colorful visuals)

**READ BELOW FOR SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SUMMER TIME**

**(not mandatory)**

LOOKING FOR SOME BOOKS TO READ THIS SUMMER? PROVIDED BELOW IS OUR USUAL SUMMER READING LIST RECOMMENDED BY THE GRADE 6 READING TEACHERS! (this is not required - just suggestions if interested)

- ***Al Capone Does My Shirts*** by Gennifer Choldenko
- ***The Bat Boy*** by Mike Lupica
- ***Each Little Bird That Sings*** by Deborah Wiles
- ***Gossamer*** by Lois Lowry
- ***The Graveyard Book*** by Neil Gaiman
- ***Heartbeat*** by Sharon Creech
- ***The Lightning Thief*** by Rick Riordan
- ***Rules*** by Cynthia Lord
- ***Tangerine*** by Edward Bloor
- ***Scat*** by Carl Hiaasen

How would you like to earn some money for your reading this summer? Check out the link provided - sponsored by Rockland Trust Bank. If interested, speak with your parent/guardian in order to start the program. Remember: this is optional only!

[https://www.rocklandtrust.com/about-us/explore/reading-makes-cent\\$](https://www.rocklandtrust.com/about-us/explore/reading-makes-cent$)

