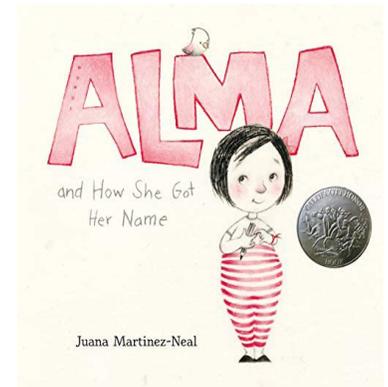


Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal

Book Synopsis: What exactly is in a name? In *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal, Alma Sofia Esperanza Jose Pura Candela seeks to uncover the meanings behind her many names. In the process, Alma learns about her family's lineage through her shared names. She is also inspired to forge her own path in the world being supported by those who share her name.

A recorded reading of this book is [available here](#).



Connection to Iowa History

Towns and cities throughout Iowa have unique names just like Alma in the story. Iowa has many communities with unique names and interesting stories. Here are a few examples:

The Iowa town of Ocheyeda translates from Dakota to English as "small place to cry". Waukee is based on the contraction of the city name, Milwaukee. Some towns are named due to their location. Adel was originally called Penoch, but it was later changed due to the location of the town on a dell. Correctionville was named after a correction made by land surveyors in the area. Do you know the story behind your town's name?

Goldie's Kids Club Storytime Activity

After reading the story, try your hand at creating name art that shows off your personality.

Instructions ([Video Instructions Available](#))

- 1 **Draw.** On a piece of paper, write your name in large block-style letters. It should take up most of the paper. If you cannot spell your name, have an adult help you.
- 2 **Count.** Count how many letters are in your first name. Each letter of your name will showcase one of your favorite things. For example, Matt has four letters. He will need to think of four favorite things.
- 3 **Think.** Each letter of your name will represent a different favorite thing. To help brainstorm ideas of what to draw ask yourself these questions:
 - What is your favorite food?
 - What is your favorite animal?
 - What is your favorite holiday?
 - What is your favorite flower?
 - What is your favorite color?
 - What is your favorite type of weather?

Materials

- Paper
- Pencil
- Colored pencils
- Markers

Instructions continued on next page

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Instructions continued

- 4 **Color.** Once you have your list of favorite, select with favorite things you want to showcase. For example, Matt has four letters, so he would choose four different favorite things. One for the M, another for the A and so on. Use colored pencils or markers for your design. If you love cows, draw spots on the letter. Be creative and have fun!
- 5 **Guess.** After finishing your name drawing, share your design with someone. Can they figure out your favorite things from the drawing?
- 6 **Share!** After you complete your activity, share your work with the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Email a photo of your project to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your creation with others!
- 7 **Questions to Spark Learning**
 - Initially, Anna didn't like her very long name. What changed once she learned the meanings behind her six names?
 - Five out of Alma's six names come from members of her family. Do you or someone you know share a name with a family member? Why are people often named after a member of their family?
 - A person's name is one of the first things they share with other people. Some people change their names to something they feel better fits them. If you could choose any name, would you keep the name you have now or change it? If you would change it, what would you want to be called and why?