



YMCA Project Cornerstone Summer Fun — ABC

An 8-week adventure in reading, games,
and family fun!

Week 7 — René Has Two Last Names

By René Colato Lainez

Embrace Your Culture

Book synopsis: In this story René does not understand why his teacher does not use both his last names. When he adds his full name to his name tag, he is teased by his classmates. The focus of this book is to learn to respect different cultural customs and traditions, the importance of maintaining customs, and to have an inclusive mindset.



Goal: Understand and learn about different cultures and how diversity makes us stronger.

Book Narration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MP0qjzj6oEE>

You can also view a **special video narration** of this book!

- Author René Colato Lainez reads this book with Ziem Neubert, Executive Director of Project Cornerstone: <https://youtu.be/hxOSj1gc19c>

This Week's Activities

Monday

Family Activity: Be a Name Detective

- Have your child interview family members (via FaceTime, Zoom, email etc.) to see if there is a story to how they got their name or why it was chosen for them.
- Ask them questions:
 - What is your name?
 - Are you named for a particular person or reason? If so, who or for what reason?
 - Do you like or dislike your name? Explain why or tell what you'd like to be called?
 - Where were you born?
 - What is important to you about your heritage?
 - What one thing would people be surprised to know about you?
 - What are you proud of?
- Have them record the interview to show to family and friends in a virtual meeting.

Tuesday

Student Activity: Acrostic Name Poem

Materials: paper, colored pencils, crayons

- Have the child write their name vertically on a sheet of paper.
- For each letter of their name, write a word that they think describes a personal characteristic.
- Families can do this together with their last name. Use this as an activity for a family crest or motto.

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Wednesday

Complimentary Book:

- Read or listen to the narration of the complimentary book, *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez Neal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmOQ1IsjdI>

Thursday

Craft: Family Tree

Materials: paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils, photos

- Draw a tree. Draw a leaf and write family member name on it.
- This can be a traditional family tree, with each member of the family or a non-traditional family tree listing who cares for you and raises you.

Friday

Family Activity:

Family Movie Night

- Watch “Coco” a film about family and culture.

BONUS FUN!

Mindfulness Activity: Cloud Search

René was teased about his name and he often felt upset. When you are upset, it can be hard to focus. Here’s a way that René may have cleared his thoughts, so he could focus on his family tree project.

- Find shapes in the sky by laying down and choosing different objects to search for in the clouds.
- For René he might have used his memories to choose an object to look for. The cloud might be a vegetable because his grandfather was a farmer or a lady dancing like his grandmother like to do.
- What objects can you find in the clouds? Do they make you think of special family memories?
- As a family, lay on the grass and look for clouds. Discuss your memories.