



YMCA Project Cornerstone Summer Fun — ABC

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

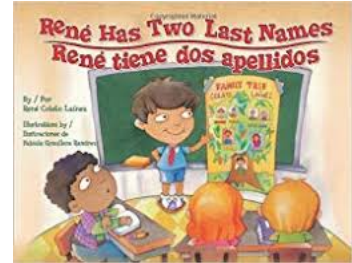
Before you start, we suggest printing out this [coloring sheet](https://tinyurl.com/yc8fk97e) (<https://tinyurl.com/yc8fk97e>). There are 8 weeks of Summer Fun Activity, and every time you complete the week's activities, you can color in the image on the coloring poster.

Week 1 — 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>

Pre-Recorded Videos:

- Conversation and Activity (all grades) [Video](#)
- Name Art Craft (Grades K-2) [Video](#)
- Acrostic Poem Craft (Grades 3-6) [Video](#)

Monday 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 Craft:

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.

Learn more about Project Cornerstone's programs and services:

<https://www.ymcasv.org/ymca-project-cornerstone>



Wednesday Reading: Complementary book

- Read or listen to the narration of the complementary book, *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez Neal <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmOQ1IsjydI>

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 Movie Night:

Coco

- Watch "Coco," a film about family and culture. After watching the movie, here are some discussion questions (ages 7+; provided by Common Sense Media):
 - Families can talk about the popularity of stories about young characters who must go on a dangerous journey to find out about themselves. What does Miguel learn in *Coco*? How do his experiences in the Land of the Dead help him grow?
 - Talk about the movie's theme of family duty vs. personal ambition. Which characters in *Coco* are role models, and which character strengths do they demonstrate?
 - Did you think any parts of the movie were scary? How much scary stuff can young kids handle? Who do you think is the ideal audience for this movie? Why?
 - Did you already know about the Day of the Dead? If not, what did you learn about the holiday? How does your family pay tribute to relatives and loved ones after they've passed away? Which other Mexican traditions and values does the movie promote? Which holidays, music, and other cultural traditions do you celebrate with your family?
 - Did you notice that characters speak English and Spanish in the movie? Would you like to learn a second language?
 - For bilingual families: Why do you think it's important or useful to speak two languages? How does language connect you with your heritage, and your family?

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.