

## The Power of Naming Lesson Plan

**Objective:** Students will reflect on their names and share their naming story with their classmates.

### Directions

- 1) Have students read “My Name” by Sandra Cisneros and “What’s in a Name?” (pgs.112-129) from *Paper Sons*. For a shorter version of Lam’s story, go here:  
<https://www.kenyonreview.org/kr-online-issue/2015-fall/selections/dickson-lam-656342/>.
- 2) In small groups, discuss:
  - What are similarities that you notice about these two naming stories?
  - What do they teach us about the importance and power of names?
- 3) Have students report back from their small groups.
- 4) Have students reflect on their own names. Here are possible journal prompts:
  - What’s the story behind your name? Who chose your name? Why?
  - Tell a story about a time when you were judged by your name. It can be positive or negative. How did this impact you?
  - Google the history of your name. What did you learn? How does this affect your understanding of your name?
  - What are nicknames you have? How did you get them? Who calls you by these names? How do these names reflect a different side of your identity?
- 5) Have students share in small groups, then ask for volunteers to share with the entire class.