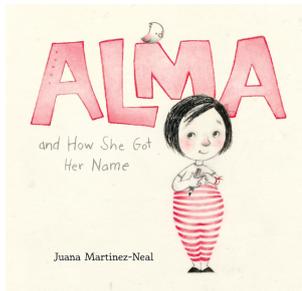




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Alma and How She Got Her Name

Juana Martinez-Neal  
ISBN: 9780763693558  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

If you ask her, Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela has way too many names: six! How did such a small person wind up with such a large name? Alma turns to Daddy for an answer and learns of Sofia, the grandmother who loved books and flowers; Esperanza, the great-grandmother who longed to travel; José, the grandfather who was an artist; and other namesakes, too. As she hears the story of her name, Alma starts to think it might be a perfect fit after all — and realizes that she will one day have her own story to tell. In her author-illustrator debut, Juana Martinez-Neal opens a treasure box of discovery for children who may be curious about their own origin stories or names.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Juana Martinez-Neal is the daughter and granddaughter of painters. She started her story in Lima, Peru, and then moved to the United States. Juana Martinez-Neal is still writing the story of her life, with the help of her husband and three children, in Arizona.

## How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

### These notes are for:

- Primary years F-2
- Ages 5+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English

### Example of:

- Picture Book

### Themes/Ideas:

- Family
- Names
- Culture
- Stories
- Identity



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## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### Before reading

View the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title *Alma and How She Got Her Name*.

### Exploring the text

Is *Alma and How She Got Her Name* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these types of texts? How can you tell? Who do you think the book was created for?

Draw your family tree including your parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. For each person on the family tree, attach a photo or draw a picture and write a few words about their likes and how you are similar to them. You may need to interview your parents or other family members about older members of your family.

Pick one of your relatives with whom you share similarities and prepare a short presentation about them. Use your presentation to tell your classmates about your relative's life, interests and achievements. Discuss how you are similar and different to this relative and why you chose them for your presentation.

Ask your parents or guardians about the meaning of your name. Were you named after a family member, friend, famous person or place? Or was your name picked or created especially for you? Create a poster featuring your name and its meaning and decorate the poster with pictures of what the meaning of your name means to you.

At the end of the book the author asks, "What story would you like to tell?" What do you think that means? What story would you like your name to tell?

The facial expressions and body language of Alma and her family members convey information about the emotions they are feeling. Look at each illustration of Alma and the other characters and discuss how you think they are feeling and why you think that.

Find three things that you like about the illustrations. Describe why you like each of these three things.

How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?

Go to the library and find other books about names or family. Create a display of these books in your classroom or library and decorate the display with things from *Alma and How She Got Her Name* such as flowers, mementos from travel, paintings, candles, etc.

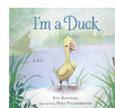
### Other great titles from Walker Books:



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Classroom ideas available



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