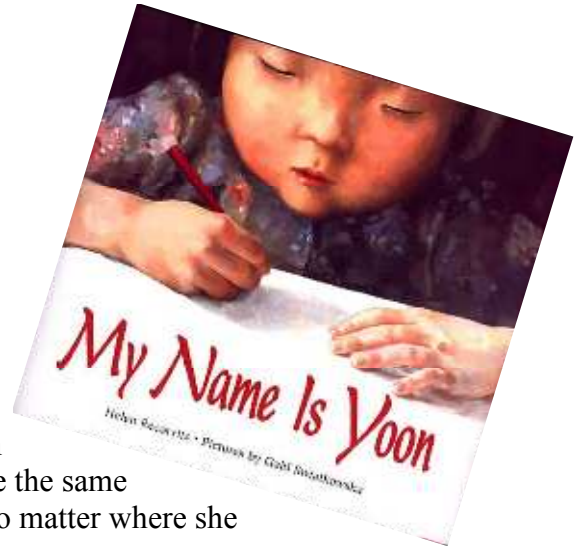


# My Name is Yoon

Written by Helen Recorvits  
Illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska



Yoon and her family moved to the United States from Korea. She isn't sure she wants to learn to write in English, as she loves the 'dancing figures' of Korean letters. Her name means 'Shining Wisdom' when written in Korean. She feels it will be different if written in English, even though her father assures her it will have the same meaning. Eventually Yoon learns that she is the same, no matter where she is, or how she writes her name.

## About the Author/Illustrator

Helen Recorvits is the author of two books for older readers, *Where Heroes Hide* and *Goodbye, Walter Malinski*. She lives in Gloucester, Rhode Island.

Gabi Swiatkowska won the 2004 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award Winners for 'This Year's Best New Illustrator.' Ms. Swiatkowska, who studied painting at the Lyceum of Art in Bielsko, Poland, warmly conveys the mix of cultures in Yoon's new world, as well as the girl's wonderful imagination, in her artwork. She has illustrated one other picture book, *Hannah's Bookmobile Christmas* by Sally Derby; she lives in Brooklyn, New York. (New York Public Library Press Release)

## Accompanying Activities

### 1. Knowing Yourself

Have each student pretend his/her parent picked his/her name because it had a special meaning that described him/her. Have each child give two words that the parents might use to describe him/her. For classes that can write, have the students write the two words on paper and put in a jar. Draw the descriptions out and have the class guess who is being described. B) use vocabulary to describe clearly ideas, feelings, and experiences

a. **Reading/culture** - The students reads to increase knowledge of his/he own culture, the culture of others, and the common elements. (ELA 110.2 (b) 13 A-B) (ELA 110.3 (b) 16 A-B) (ELA 110.4 (b) 13 A-B)

b. **Listening.speaking/communication** - Use vocabulary to describe clearly ideas, feelings, and experiences (ELA 110.2 (b) 4 B) (ELA 110.3 (b) 4 B) (ELA 110.4 (b) 4 A)

### 2. Cause and Effect

**Create a cause and effect chart showing:**

Yoon wanted to fly to Korea. / She pretended to be a bird.

She wanted to hide in a corner where her mother would find her. / She pretended to be a cat.

She wanted the children to clap their hands when they saw her. / She wanted to be a cupcake.

She was used to writing her name in Korean. / She didn't want to write it in English  
She realized her name meant Shining Wisdom in any language./ She wrote it in English.

(Have students create more cause and effect illustrations about the story and about themselves.)

- a. **Reading Comprehension** - Make and explain inferences from texts such as determining important ideas and causes and effects, making predictions, and drawing conclusions (ELA 110.3 (b) 12 F) (ELA 110.4 (b) 9 F)

### 3. **Value – Helping Others**

Have students list ways they could help new students adjust to their school.

- a. **Reading/Culture** - Compare experiences of characters across cultures. (ELA 110.2 (b) 13 B) (ELA 110.3 (b) 16 B) (ELA 110.4 (b) 13 B)

### 4. **Venn Diagram**

Read the book *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi. Use Kidspiration to create a Venn diagram comparing the two.

- a. **Reading/comprehension** - Represent text information in different ways, including story maps, graphs, and charts (ELA 110.4 (b) 9 I)
- b. **Reading/comprehension**- Identify similarities and differences across texts such as in topic, characters, and problems (ELA 110.3 (b) 12 G) (ELA 110.4 (b) 9 G)

### 5. **Korean Map / Writing**

Han-Gul is the name of the Korean alphabet. It was invented in 1446 by a Korean king named Sejong. Have students write the word 'Han-gul' in Korean on a piece of paper and color the Korean flag below or beside it. The Korean writing of Han-gul can be found in the *Fiesta Series by Grolier, page 27. (Korea).*

- a. **Social Studies Skills/ Maps**- The student creates and uses simple maps to identify the location of places in the classroom, school, community, and beyond (SS 113.3 (b) 5 A) Use symbols, find locations, and determine directions on maps and globes. (SS 113.4 (b) 5 A)

### 6. **Art Collaboration**

Collaborate with the art teacher. Have students draw themselves as an animal or item.

- a. **Reading/literary Response** - Respond through talk, movement, music, art, drama, and writing to a variety of stories in ways that reflect understanding and interpretation. (ELA 110.2 (b) 10 C) (ELA 110.3 (b) 13 C) (ELA 110.4 (b) 10 A)

### **Companion Books**

#### **Other books by Helen Recorvits**

*Goodbye, Walter Laminski*, Farrar Straus Girous, 1999.

*Where Heros Hide*. Frances Foster Books, 2002.

**Other books Illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska**

Derby, Sally. *Hannah's Bookmobile*, Harry Holt, 2001.

Schaefer, Lola M. *Arrowhawk*, Harry Holt 2004.

**Korea**

Landau, Elaine. *Korea*. Children's Press 1999.

*Korea*. Grolier Book Company, 1997.

Haskins, James. *Count Your Way Through Korea*. Carolrhoda Books, 1989.

Girard, Linda. *We Adopted You, Benjamin Joo*. Albert Whitman and Company, 1992.

**Names**

Constanzu, Charlene. *A Perfect Name*. Dial Books, 2002.

Choi, Yangsook. *The Name Jar*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2001.