**Your Name**

Read the chapter about Nancy in *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* and read this chapter, "My Name", from *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. Then write about what your name means, why it was given to you (if there was a special reason), how you feel about it and what name you would choose if you had to (or wanted to) change it and why.  Do not simply answer these questions one after another.  They are here just to give you something to think and write about.

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**My Name**

[In English](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-7344454) [my name](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4028187) [means](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-8749536) [hope](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4381807). [In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4066327). [It is like the number nine](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-8756834). [A muddy color.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-7274700) [It is the Mexican records my father plays on Sunday mornings when he is shaving, songs like sobbing.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-5046939)  
 It was my [great-grandmother’s name and now it is mine](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4064087). [She was a horse woman too, born like me in the Chinese year](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4092414) [of the horse –](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4196265) [which is supposed to be bad luck if you’re born female – but I think this is a Chinese lie because](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-7274686) [the Chinese, like the Mexican, don’t like their women strong.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-5048176)  
 [My great-grandmother. I would’ve liked to have known her](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4066319), [a wild horse of a woman, so wild she wouldn’t marry.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-7925927) [Until my great-grandfather threw a sack over her head and carried her off.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4381929) J[ust like that, as if she were a fancy chandelier. That’s the way he did it.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated" \l "note-8742892)

[And the story goes she never forgave him. She looked out the window her whole life,](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated" \l "note-8742892) [the way so](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-8749520) [many women sit their sadness on an elbow.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4092432) [I wonder if she made the best with what she got or was she sorry because she couldn’t be all the things she wanted to be. Esperanza.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-8745764) [I have inherited her name, but don’t want to inherit her place by the window.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4196488)  
 [At school they say my name funny](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4064097) [as if the syllables were made out of tin and hurt the roof of your mouth.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4196369) [But in Spanish my name is made out of a softer something, like silver, not quite as thick as sister’s name – Magdalena – which is uglier than mine.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4196468) [Magdalena](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-5050007) [who at least can come home and become Nenny](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-8756843). [But I am always Esperanza.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4381809)  
 [I would like to baptize myself under a](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4196476) [new name](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4028190), [a name more like the real me, the one nobody sees.](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-4092444) [Esperanza as Lisandra or Maritza or Zeze the X](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated#note-8742897). Yes. Something like [Zeze the X will do](http://genius.com/Sandra-cisneros-my-name-from-the-house-on-mango-street-annotated" \l "note-4156596).

from *The House on Mango Street*

by Sandra Cisneros

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Here are some other ideas that you should consider:

* Were you named after someone else in your family or perhaps even a famous person?
* How do you feel when you come across somebody who has the same name as you do?
* Some parents (both male and female) name their child after themselves. Do you think this is a good idea?
* There has been a trend in recent years away from common names toward more unusual, even unique, names. Why do parents do this? They want their children to stand out from other children, to seem stronger and more individualistic. But sometimes they go too far:

Parents may agonise over the name of their latest arrival – but rarely do they expect the decision to end up in a court. Over the last few years, however, judges across the world have had to intervene and challenge parents’ choices: **[Nutella](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/01/26/nutella-baby-name_n_6547908.html)**, which was banned in France; [**Cyanide, which was outlawed in the UK**](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2016/04/15/baby-name-cyanide_n_9701896.html); and perhaps most bizarrely, the girl called [**‘Talula Does the Hula From Hawaii’**](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2008/jul/24/familyandrelationships.newzealand) in New Zealand, who was put under court guardianship so that she could pick a more traditional name.

Would you give your child an unusual name, hoping that this would set them apart from other children? Do you wish that you had a unique name?

* Some people think that our name may influence who we become when we grow up. Take a look at this:

When Raymond and Rosa Judge welcomed their son Igor into the world, it may have seemed obvious what profession he would choose. Even Rosa’s maiden name, Micallef, was a derivation of the Arabic word for Judge. Sure enough, Igor was called to the bar and eventually became Britain’s Lord Chief Justice: the [**judge’s judge**](https://www.theguardian.com/law/2013/jul/30/lord-chief-justice-igor-judge). If Lord Judge has become [**sick of the jokes**](http://www.5rb.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/Counsel_200904_Michalos_6.pdf) over the years, he could at least remember that there are other people with far more unfortunate names: just think of [**Cardinal Sin**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaime_Sin), the former Archbishop of Manila.

Does our name decide our fate? While we may brush these cases aside as coincidence, some surprising new studies would suggest that in some small way, it does, influencing our behaviour in school, our job prospects, and our popularity. Our surname may even give clues to our physique and vitality.

Today, some parents are going out of their way to give their daughters masculine names like Charlie and Frankie, which, unlike the one that Esperanza and her grandmother were given, indicate strength and independence. They think that this will help them later on when they choose a career. What do you think? Would you do this?