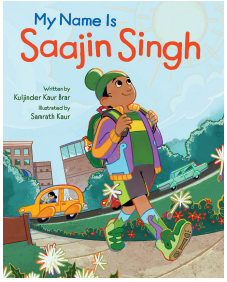
My Name is Saajin Singh

Lesson Plan



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Illustrator: Samrath Kaur

Grade: K-3

"We may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race." -Kofi Annan

Teacher Reflections:

Book Summary:

Saajin is excited for the first day of school, and to meet his new class, but when his teacher mispronounces his name, Saaijin isn't sure how to or if he should correct her. Saajin's classmates pronounce his name like the teacher too and Saajin tries to live with it for a while, but it doesn't feel good. He tells his family about the name situation and that leads to a powerful conversation around the meaning of his name. Saajin returns to school feeling empowered to reclaim his name and embrace his identity.

Teacher's Notes:

Resources:

My Name is Saajin Singh

Lesson Plan

Pre-Reading Questions:

1.Has your name ever been said wrong? How did it make you feel? If you haven't, how do you think it would make you feel?

2. Why do you think there are so many different names in the world?

3. Does your name reflect your family's culture and/or the languages you speak? If you don't know, ask the people that take care of you tonight if they do!

Activities:

Activity 1: My Name in Letters

Students will create an acrostic poem out of their name with words and phrases that describe them.

While Reading

Questions:

1. What happens after Saajin's teacher says his name wrong on the first day of school?
2. How does Saajin feel when his name is said wrong?
3. What does Saajin's name mean in Punjabi?
4. Does Saajin's name hold the meaning that his parents intended for it to have when it is pronounced "Say-Jin"?

Activities:

Activity 2: Our Names

Students will work together and can also use the internet to learn more about their names.

Post-Reading

Questions:

1. Why is it important to say someone's name the right way?
2. What are some other ways to be a good friend?
3. How can you ask someone how to say their name if you aren't sure?

Activities:

Activity 3: Good Friends Ask

Students will practice politely asking someone how they should pronounce their name.