

The Name Jar

Written by Yangsook Choi

Dragonfly Books

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40 pages | \$8.99



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Writing and punctuating dialogue can be a difficult concept for students. *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi is rich with dialogue that discusses the struggles of coming to a new school, new town, new country and the possibility of a new name. In this lesson, students will focus on the skill of writing dialogue in a proper format and the use of quotation marks.

LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will identify dialogue tags in writing.
2. Students will compose multiple sentences that contain dialogue.
3. Students will compose multiple sentences that contain dialogue with proper punctuation and indentation.

MATERIALS NEEDED

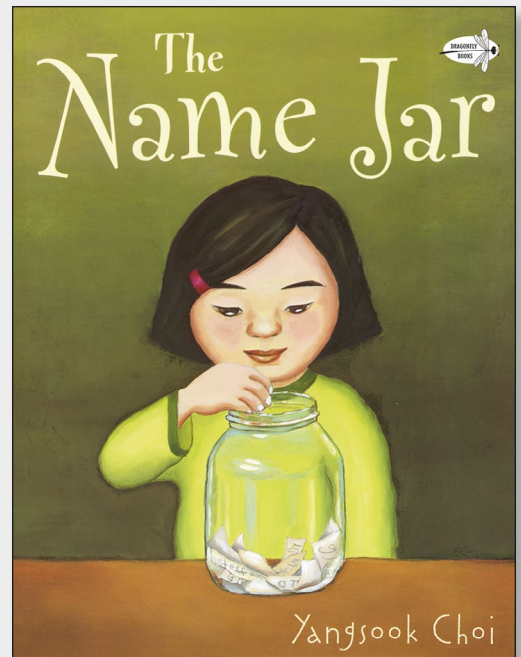
- *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi
- Piece of paper
- Two writing utensils
- Alternatives to Said Website: tinyurl.com/s7mp322v
- Dialogue Tags: tinyurl.com/ydwerujs
- Quotations in Dialogue: tinyurl.com/bdfaj7cv
- Dialogue Worksheet

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Students are going to learn the art of writing and punctuating dialogue. They will start by having a silent conversation on paper. Students will then read *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi and focus on a single page as a mentor text and exemplar of writing.

Finding Your Place in the World:

*Lessons for Reading
and Writing*



SUMMARY

Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids won't like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. But while Unhei practices being a Suzy, Laura or Amanda, one of her classmates comes to her neighborhood and discovers her real name and its special meaning. On the day of her name choosing, the name jar has mysteriously disappeared. Encouraged by her new friends, Unhei chooses her own Korean name and helps everyone pronounce it—Yoon-Hey.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION (*cont'd*)

- Step 1:** Pass out the Dialogue Worksheet. Students should complete Step 1 by having a silent conversation on a piece of paper with a partner. Students will need a minimum of TWO entries EACH.
- Step 2:** Read *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi with a focus on page 3 dialogue. This page can be photocopied and distributed to students.
- Step 3:** Introduce Dialogue Tags. Students will add dialogue tags to their silent paper conversation either to the beginning or the end of their sentence. Upgrade the Dialogue Tags by adding a replacement for “said.”
- Step 4:** Show the **Quotations in Dialogue Video** and have students add quotation marks to their dialogue.
- Step 5:** Have students rewrite their dialogue with proper formatting and indentation on the Dialogue Worksheet.
- Step 6:** Students may share their new examples in a group, or they can share with the class.

Dialogue Worksheet

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
<p>You will have a silent conversation with a partner. On a separate piece of paper, take turns writing. Please skip a line between the lines of dialogue. You can discuss anything you want. EACH of you should have TWO pieces of dialogue.</p>	<p>Add dialogue tags to your conversation. These tags can be added at the beginning or the end of the dialogue.</p> <p>Dialogue tag: a phrase that comes at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of dialogue that indicates who is speaking.</p> <p>Example: “How are you today?” asked Mary. (asked Mary is the dialogue tag)</p>	<p>Add quotation marks to words you said in your silent conversation.</p> <p>Example: “How are you today?” asked Mary. (notice the quotes are only before and after what Mary asked.)</p>
<p>Step 4</p> <p>Using proper dialogue format, write your silent dialogue in the box below. Use page 3 from <i>The Name Jar</i> by Yangsook Choi for your sample. Notice that every time someone speaks, the new line of dialogue must be indented.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>		