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What’s in a Name?

My name is Shadavien. My nickname is Davie... I live with my mom, dad, and sister. My favorite color is pink. My favorite food is crab. I love seafood. My favorite activity is football. My favorite book is The Imaginary Veterinary because my favorite genre is fantasy. I am really good at sports and would like you to know that I love animals (mostly dogs). This year, I would like to learn more about algebra. I also like playing video games; my favorite is Puzz. (Shadavien)

My mom loved this singer/model named Kamari and so did my dad. How my name became Kamoria instead of Kamari is my dad liked the word “ia” so they changed the “a” to an “o” and made it Kamoria. (The “I” is silent.)

The meaning of my name is unknown, but there are only 129 Kamoria’s in the U.S.!

What I like best about my name is that it’s different because you don’t hear a lot of people named Kamoria. Something else I like about it is that even though some other people have the same name, it’s spelled different. (Kamoria)

My name is Marion-Tae, and I am eleven years old. What you should know about me is I am a goofy kid. I like to play around a lot. I also like to play on my phone half of the time. But I also get outside sometimes. I have four siblings, Edrease, Malani, Malaysia, and Semaj’a. I love my siblings all the same. I don’t love any of them different. And I’m a very nice person once you get to know me. Well, that’s all I’ve got for now. I’ll be back with another story. (Marion-Tae)
I am K’shawn. My name is a combination of my mom’s and my dad’s.
I’m in 8th grade at Blackhawk.
I don’t like chocolate. Hate it.
I am an eater. I like all food.
My favorite color is blue.
My goal is to make the NBA.
I love trying new fun things.
(K’shawn)

My name isn’t chosen by me. That’s why I don’t like it, you see. The fact that I couldn’t choose a name for me, I just don’t understand it clearly. My name is something that defines me, but my parents picked it... It just doesn’t make logical sense, especially with the fact that the parent doesn’t live with that name.

I think that I should’ve had the opportunity to pick the name that is me, a name that could become legendary, or extraordinary. Why not Smile, or Art, or something that doesn’t mean masculine, or one of goths, or supplanter, something that I, Jocelyn, didn’t get to pick? There are a lot of things I don’t like about humanity, but names are one of the top things on my list.
Not only does my name not apply to my personality, but it completely disses my heritage. I mean, come on, my name is German, French, Latin American, and English. It’s basically everything other than African-American, or at least African. My name is even Hebrew and I am Atheist...

So, to sum it up, my name is something that’s just assigned to me, like everything else, like my race, DNA, and family. I can only wish that my name was something that I can CHOOSE instead of something that was just allocated for my existence. (Jocelyn)

This is my name story. My mom named me Angel because she loved how it sounded and she was like, “Yeah, this is the name for her.” She likes my name and I like it too. My name was going to be Lucy, but she named me Angel instead. (Angel)
Why is that my name? I don’t really know why, but it’s mine, and I like it, and I don’t really want to change it.

One way to describe me would be calm or chill because I don’t lash out. I don’t scream when I get mad, or sad, or “very emotional.” Also I don’t socialize much with too many people. I’m not a social butterfly, but not an antisocial cave bat either. I would say I’m... a social moth.

Another way to describe me is hard shelled outside. I don’t really talk to a lot of people and I don’t talk a lot. Sometimes I only speak when spoken to. Also I don’t cry. I shed 1 or 2 tears, then wipe them away.

One last way to describe me is to say I’m protective. Having 5 little siblings (not all biological) I HAVE to be protective of them. If just one of them slips outside my watch ANYTHING can happen to them. My little sisters and brothers mean everything to me. I would never let anything happen to them.

(Markavian)

I have no idea what to write yet. I don’t know what to write. Well, this is weird. Someone else might say stupid, dumb, crazy, awkward, but anyway... Thinking, thinking, think, think, think. I’ll just continue, whatever. Bye!

WAIT! I know what to write about. I’m going to write about MMEE! and my name JERRY. I was named after my grandfather, meaning I am the third (III). It is a very common name, but I want a unique name, but a cool name too. I am proud I have the name of my grandfather. He was in the Army, and he is now a veteran, and survived three wars. He has a boat that we go fishing on. Anyway, I LOVE my name JERRY.

(Jerry)
One thing about me is I love dancing. Hip-hop. Another thing about me is I like singing and social studies. Pop/hip-hop.
The last thing about me is I’m in AVID. I want to start the PEOPLE Program and one day get a full scholarship to Harvard University. **(Ashzianna)**

Do you have the courage to make friends? Courage takes time. People get so shy. When you meet new people things start to change around you. New things start to come into play. Guess what? You make friends and you don’t seem shy anymore. Your friends help you become a better person and they help keep you on task. Keep up the good work. It’s going to get you somewhere in life. **(Semaj’a)**

I was in “Legally Blonde Jr.” this summer. It was a really interesting program. Ms. Jenna, the teacher, was lovely. If I could, I would go back and do Express Yourself all over again. The cast was very supportive of me because it was my first show. It was more like a family than strangers. Isa was really cool and nice to me and showed me the ropes. Emma was very kind to me. She’s the sweetest girl alive, but in the play had to play the mean girl, which is ironic. Jack was fabulous. He was a very uplifting kid and brave enough to wear a pink sports bra and wig in front of people. We only had two weeks and bonded quickly. There was one time during the show that we had to all run through the alley while we finished putting on our costumes. We all made it just in time. **(Olivia)**
ODYSSSEY EXPLORERS
Who Am I?

My name is Kimari. My nicknames are Strawberry, Carrot Top, and more. I am 10 1/2 years old. I am in the 5th grade. I live with my mom, brother, and sister. My favorite color is rainbow. I am really good at sports, I play a lot of them. (Kimari)

Hi! I’m LaNiyah but for a nickname you can call me Niyah. I am 9 years old and I’m in 4th grade. I live with my mom, dad, one sister, three brothers, and my dogs. My favorite color is blue, and my favorite food is mac and cheese. My favorite activity is crafts. I love books. My favorite book is The Talking Eggs. (LaNiyah)

My first name is Malaysia. My nickname is Monae. I am 9 years old. I am in the 4th grade. I live with my mom, sisters, brothers, my mom’s friend, and her baby. My favorite colors are blue and red. My favorite food is Takis. My favorite activities are math, gym, and music. My favorite author is Dr. Seuss. I am really good at cleaning. I would like you to know that I am nice and hope to learn more about space in Explorers this year. (Malayia)

My first name is Kaleah. My nickname is Juicy. I am 8 years old and am in the 3rd grade. I live with my dad, my sisters, and my brother. My favorite color is blue. My favorite food is pizza. My favorite activity is gym. I am really good at gymnastics and my dream is to be a gymnast. I would like to learn more about science this year in Explorers. (Kaleah)

My name is Jordan. My nicknames are Jordy and J-Moore. I am 9 ¾ years old. I am in the 4th grade. I live with Jocelyn, Jerry, Julius, and Jasmine. I love all colors, Reese candy, and veggies. My favorite book is The Dot. I am really good at throwing. I would like you to know that I am tall. I’m 5’1”. This year in Explorers, I would like to learn more about science. (Jordan)

My first name is Shaun. My nickname is MJ. I am 8 years old and in the 3rd grade. I live with my family. My favorite color is gold. My favorite food is chicken. My favorite game is Sharks and Minnows. My favorite book is Green Eggs and Ham. I am really good at every sport. I am also smart, and I love math. I want to visit museums and learn more about the world!!! (Shaun)

My first name is Shuan. My whole name is named after my dad. My nickname is Shuanen. I am 10 years old and in the 4th grade. I live with my mom, step-dad, two sisters, and two brothers. My favorite colors are black and red. My favorite food is pizza. My favorite activity is helping. This year in Explorers, I would like to learn more about space, cars, and planes. (Shuan)
My first name is Kyniah. My nickname is Niah. I am 8 years old. My favorite color is red, and my favorite food is burgers. My favorite activity is science. My favorite story is Superman. This year in Explorers, I would like to learn more about math.  (Kyniah)

My name is Truth. My nickname is King Truth. I am eight and a half. I’m in 3rd grade. I live with my mom and my dad. My favorite color is gold. My favorite food is salad. My favorite activity is writing. My favorite book is the Dictionary. I am really good at writing and would like to learn more about it.

Truth also wrote the following rap in class:

A time is a place to make rhymes everyday
And what to do is what I say
I got to stay on a grind
To keep nothing but time
My bubble is my bubble
And my trouble is my trouble and my rumble
And if I got to throw them blows
Got to keep on them
But I don’t hear them shots
And I don’t want to hear them glocks all night
I’m like Malcolm,
But more welcome
You know what,
I’m better and smarter, that’s me.  (Truth)

My name is Carmella but I like to be called Mella. I am 8 years old. I live with my mom. My favorite food is pizza. I like gym, and I like to read Diary of a Wimpy Kid. I am really good at swimming. I like hugs. I want to learn about flowers this year.  (Carmella)

My first name is Julius. My nickname is Jules. I am 6 years old and am in the 1st grade. I live with my mom and dad. My favorite colors are blue and green. My favorite food is noodles. My favorite activity is playing video games, I am really good at playing video games. My favorite book is Nugget and Fang. This year in Explorers, I would like to learn more about the Earth.  (Julius)

My first name is Carlyle. I am 6 years old and in 1st grade. I live with my mom and dad. My favorite color is red. My favorite food is spaghetti. I am really good at jumping.  (Carlyle)
My first name is Javone. My nickname is Deshan. I am 6 years old. I am in the 1st grade. I live with my dad and my mom. My favorite color is red. My favorite food is pasta. My favorite activity is playing video games. My favorite book is *The Book with No Pictures*. I am really good at writing minions, and I like playing. This year in Explorers, I would like to learn more about the Milky Way. (Javone)

My first name is Jayden. My nickname is JD. I am 7 years old, and am in the 1st grade. I live with my dad, mom, and cousins. My favorite color is red. My favorite food is steaks. My favorite activity is coloring. I am really good at cartwheels. I would like to learn more about Earth this year in Explorers. (Jayden)

My first name is Cole. I am 7 years old. My favorite activity is coloring. My favorite story is *Peppa Pig*. I would like you to know that I like my mom. I am really good at riding my bike. This year in Explorers, I would like to learn more about math. (Cole)

My first name is Alan. I am 8 years old. I am in the 4th grade. I live with my mom, dad, and brother. My favorite color is red. My favorite food is shrimp. My favorite activity is playing soccer. I am really good at soccer. My favorite book is the *Amulet*. (Alan)

My first name is Erick. My nickname is Ericksito. I am 6 years old. I am in the 1st grade. I live with my parents. My favorite color is red. My favorite food is yogurt. My favorite activity is watching TV. My favorite book is *Captain Underpants*. I am really good at coloring, and I am really friendly. This year in Explorers, I would like to learn more about reading books. (Erick)

My first name is Alexander. My nickname is Alex. I am 7 years old and in 1st grade. I live with my family. My favorite color is blue, and my favorite food is pesto pasta. My favorite activity is visiting the children’s museum. My favorite book is the Bible. I am really good at chess and am very creative. This year in Explorers, I would like to learn more about space. (Alex)

My first name is Sheari. My nickname is Baby Ari. I am 10 years old and in 4th grade. I live with my mom, dad, and sister. My favorite color is teal. My favorite food is strawberries. My favorite activity is gymnastics, I am a good gymnast. My favorite book is *Judy Moody*. I would like to learn more about math. (Sheari)
My first name is Sidney, but my nickname is Sid. I am 9 years old. I am in the 4th grade. I live with my mom, brother, dad, and friend. My favorite colors are purple, blue and pink. My favorite food is fried chicken. My favorite activity is swimming. I am really good at swimming. My favorite book is Meet Addy. I want to learn everything this year in Explorers! (Sidney)

My first name is Kamia. My nickname is Mimi. I am 8 years old. I am in the 3rd grade. I live with my dad, two sisters, and brother. My favorite color is blue. My favorite food is pizza. My favorite activity is gym class. My favorite book is Diary of a Wimpy Kid. I am really good at gymnastics and love space. (Kamia)

My name is Markayla. My nickname is Mo. I am 6 years old. I am in the first grade. I live with my mom, three brothers, one sister, and my dad. My favorite color is blue. My favorite food is peaches. My favorite activity is swimming. My favorite book is Peppa Pig. I am really good at exercising. I like to help everybody with their homework. This year in Explorers, I would like to learn more about yogurt. (Markayla)

My name is Philander. My nickname is Parish. I am 6 years old. I am in the 1st grade. I live with my mom, my dad, my big sister, and our baby sister. My favorite color is red. My favorite food is pizza. My favorite activity is sports. My favorite books are books about basketball. I would like you to know that I am nice. This year in Explorers, I would like to learn more about nature. (Parish)
ACROSTIC ME

K is for kind.
A is for adventurous.
M is for mindful.
I is for incredible
A is for always.  (Kamia)

K is for kind.
A is for awesome.
L is for lucky.
E is for energetic.
A is for Amazing
H is for Hopeful.  (Kaleah)

Stubborn and Sweet
Honest and Hungry
Excited at gymnastics
Amazing and Athletic
Ready and Risk-taking
Intelligent

I like my name. I think it’s pretty.  (Sheari)

C is for cough.
O is for outgoing.
L is for laughing.
E is for excited.  (Cole)

J is for Michael J. Jordan.
O is for open.
R is for risk-taking.
D is for determined.
A is for awesome.
N is for nice.

N is for nine.
O is for outgoing.
E is for energetic.
L is for loving.  (Jordan Noel)

S is for super.
H is for happy.
A is for awesome.
D is for dogs.
A is for apples.
V is for virtual reality.
I is for inventive.
E is for excited.
N is for nice.

I like how long my name is!  (Shadavien)

C is for car.
A is for adventurous.
R is for responsible.
L is for lucky.
Y is for Yay!
L is for leader.
E is for excellent at making mind jars/snow globes.  (Carlyle)
A is for adventurous.
L is for likeable.
E is for excellent swimmer.
X is for eXuberant.

Me gusta mucho mi nombre.  (Alex)

P is for peaceful.
A is for awesome.
R is for ready.
I is for I love my name.
S is for sweet.
H is for happy.  (Parish)

Who am I?
Likeable
Amazing
Nice
Intelligent
Young
Always smiling
Hopeful

Things I Like
Lasagna
Apples
Noodles
Ice cream
Yams
Apple pie
Honey  (LaNiyah)

J is for joking.
a is for athletic.
v is for very exciting.
o is for organized.
n is for nice.
e is for excellent.

I was named after my father!  (Javone)

Who am I?
Swimmer
Handsome
Ultragool
Apple pie
Natural

Things I Like
Summer
Hot
Ukuleles
Applesauce
Nighttime  (Shaun)
Who am I?
C is for creative.
A is for amazing.
R is for ready.
M is for magical.
E is for exciting.
L is for loving.
L is for lucky.
A is for awesome.

Things I Like
C is for cats.
A is for apples.
R is for ramen noodles.
M is for magic.
E is for elephants.
L is for Laniyah.
L is for love.
A is for aunties. *(Carmella)*

M is for Mom’s girl.
O is for Oreo lady.
N is for Nice.
A is for amazing.
E is for eats spaghetti.

Note: Monae is my nickname. *(Malaysia)*

S is for sweet.
I is for incredible.
D is for delightful.
N is for nine.
E is for excellent.
Y is for yes I can. *(Sidney)*

K is for Kimari.
I is for intelligent.
M is for magical.
A is for athletic.
R is for respectful.
I is for important. *(Kimari)*

J is for joking.
U is for upbeat.
L is for lucky.
I is for incredible.
U is for unique.
S is for sweet. *(Julius)*

J is for joker.
A is for art.
Y is for you should know I like science.
D is for dancing and singing.
E is for exploring.
N is for nice. *(Jayden)*

K is for karate.
Y is for young.
N is for nice.
I is for inspiring.
A is for amazing.
H is for helpful.

K is for kite.
Y is for yoyo.
N is for ninja.
I is for ice skating.
A is for astronaut.
H is for hockey.

My mom gave me a name that begins with the letter "k," so everyone in my family has a name that starts with the letter "k." *(Kyniah)*
Our Explorers Contract
How can I help make Explorers fun and safe for everyone?

I can do what I need to do: I can help, I can listen. I can do my best to be good and listen to the teacher. I can do my homework. I can be awesome by helping. Sometimes, I can be the funny man! (Truth)

I can remind the class to obey the rules. (Erick)

I can help someone with their homework. I can be a friend to others in the class. (Markayla)

I can make the classroom a better place because there’s no hitting, no punching, no kicking. I don’t do that stuff. I’ll be nice, too. (Parish)

I can be a good sport. I can listen so I don’t have to wait for the activity. Obey the teacher who is teaching. Do not mess with him or her. Don’t make a mess. (Carmella)

If there is a bad guy, lock the door. We can play games together. (Cole)

I can do lots of reading. I can be nice. I will share with other people. When it’s somebody’s birthday, we will sing “Happy Birthday.” (Carlyle)

We can be kind and be respectful and listen to teachers. Then we can have a fun and awesome day and time. IF someone is being mean, don’t do the same thing they are doing. Tell the teacher if they don’t stop. (Jayden)

We can be kind and friendly and help people up if they fall. Be respectful and clean up. (Sidney)

I can give someone a warning. I can help people to be polite. (Jordan)

Things to put in our community contract:

Be safe! (Alan)

Don’t be loud. (Malaysia)

Be kind. Be safe. (Sheari)

Be nice to others. Be kind. (Julius)
Sidney and her father, Bruce Moore, made a Rhubarb Pound Cake for us in celebration of the first day of class. It was such a hit, we asked them to share their recipe below:

**Rhubarb Pound Cake**
Two 16 oz. boxes of Betty Crocker pound cake
1 pound of softened butter
1 1/3 cup of water, (sometimes we use milk, but water is better for the kids!)
4 eggs
3 stalks of rhubarb.
1 fluted Bundt pan

Take 2/3 of the water and 1 1/2 stalks of rhubarb and put in a Nutribullet or a blender.

Take the other 1 1/2 stalks and peel some of the outer off; then chop them into small pieces.

Preset the oven at 350 degrees.

Then put everything in the batter and mix.

Lightly line the pan with vegetable oil, then lightly with flour to prevent sticking. After mixing, put the batter in the pan, and leave it out about 20 minutes before putting it in the oven.

Bake it for 30 minutes at 350 degrees, then lower oven temperature to 325 degrees and bake for another 30 minutes so the cake will bake evenly without burning.
ODYSSEY JUMPSTART
ODYSSEY FAMILIES