Alma and How She Got Her Name
author/illustrator**:** Juana Martinez-Neal

If you ask her, Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela has way too many names: six! How did such a small person wind up with such a large name? Alma turns to Daddy for an answer and learns of Sofia, the grandmother who loved books and flowers; Esperanza, the great-grandmother who longed to travel; José, the grandfather who was an artist; and other namesakes, too. As she hears the story of her name, Alma starts to think it might be a perfect fit after all — and realizes that *she* will one day have her own story to tell. In her author-illustrator debut, Juana Martinez-Neal opens a treasure box of discovery for children who may be curious about their own origin stories or names.
What's in a name? For one little girl, her very long name tells the vibrant story of where she came from — and who she may one day be.
Juana Martinez-Neal is the daughter and granddaughter of painters. She started her story in Lima, Peru, and then moved to the United States. The winner of a 2018 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award for *La Princesa and the Pea* by Susan Middleton Elya*,* Juana Martinez-Neal is still writing the story of her life, with the help of her husband and three children, in Arizona.

For homework, please write a paragraph telling the story of your name(s), or the story of your child's name(s). What does this name mean? Why and how was this name chosen? We will share our stories next week in class. Give your story a title.

My Names
By Alicia Hsu

I have two names: Alicia and 许多雯. My father chose both of my names. When he was a college student, my father read a Spanish novel translated into Chinese. One of the characters in the story was named Alicia, and he loved the sound of this name. My Chinese name means Many Beautiful Clouds. My father was the oldest of nine siblings. All of my cousins have the same first two Chinese characters in their names: 许 and 多. Together they mean "many." My father chose the last character 雯, "beautiful cloud." This Chinese character is made up of two parts: 雨 which means rain, and 文 which means culture. My names remind me of my father.

There are some Spanish words in this story. Here are the English translations:

culturas Puruan – Peruvian Culture
flores – flowers
pajarito – birds
Aves de las Americas – Birds of the Americas
Abetas & Flores – Firs and Flowers
La Amazonia – The Amazon
Genealogia – geneology
Estados Unidos – The United States
denuncia – protest

perro - dog
tiburon - shark
chancho - pig
caballo - horse
conejo - rabbit
zorro - fox
escucha - listen
piensa - think
mi historia – my story