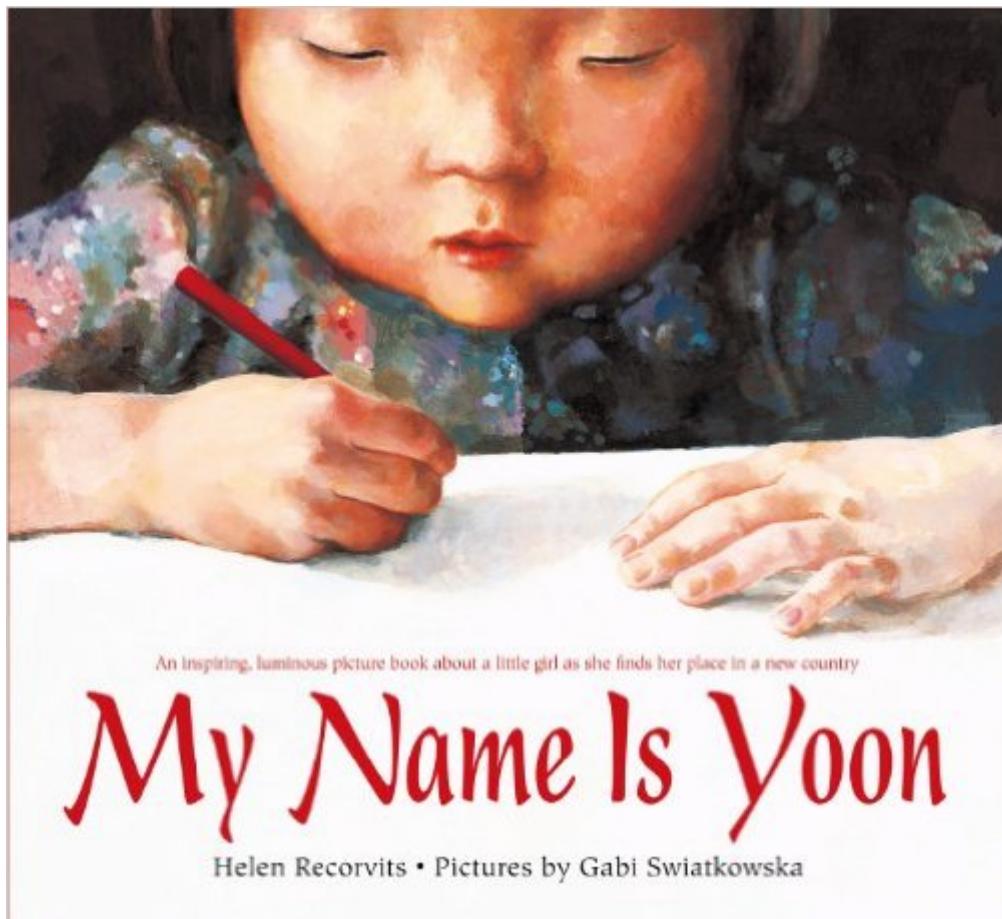


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# My Name Is Yoon



## Synopsis

Getting to feel at home in a new country Yoon's name means "shining wisdom," and when she writes it in Korean, it looks happy, like dancing figures. But her father tells her that she must learn to write it in English. In English, all the lines and circles stand alone, which is just how Yoon feels in the United States. Yoon isn't sure that she wants to be YOON. At her new school, she tries out different names—maybe CAT or BIRD. Maybe CUPCAKE! Helen Recorvits's spare and inspiring story about a little girl finding her place in a new country is given luminous pictures filled with surprising vistas and dreamscapes by Gabi Swiatkowska. *My Name Is Yoon* is a Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (June 10, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250057116

ISBN-13: 978-1250057112

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.1 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #17,625 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #21 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > First Day of School #47 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

In 2001 a book came out entitled, "The Name Jar" about a girl from Korea who had moved to America and wanted an Americanized name. Then, in 2003, "My Name Is Yoon" came out with practically the same plot. Normally, I have little sympathy for children's books that mimic their predecessors. In this case, however, there can be little doubt as to which book is the better of the two. "My Name Is Yoon", is a complex tale of imagination, flights of fancy, and gradual acceptance. By contrast, "The Name Jar" was simply okay. You can find ho-hum picture books lining the shelves of most libraries and bookstores around the globe. It is far rarer to find books quite as remarkable as

the stunning, "Yoon". Yoon isn't exactly thrilled to be in America. Wherever she looks, she sees that life is different in this strange new land. In Korea, where Yoon was born, her name meant Shining Wisdom. Despite her father's assurances that it means the same thing here, Yoon isn't so sure. And then there's the fact that when she writes her name using English characters, it's just a series of sticks and circles, whereas in Korean, "The symbols dance together". She's right. They do. Yoon carries her unhappiness to school where each day she learns a new word and makes that her name. One day it's cat. Another it's bird. Still another (and most amusingly) it's cupcake. In the end, Yoon learns to like her new country, supposing perhaps that maybe that being different can be good too. And in the end, she embraces her real name. "It still means Shining Wisdom". I hate summarizing picture books where the plot, when written down, sounds so much hokier than it feels on the page. What I've just written sounds nice but bland. The book is anything but bland.

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