



#9679

CHRISTOPHER CHANGES HIS NAME

NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, 2000

Grade Levels: K-3

7 minutes



DESCRIPTION

Christopher hates his name, but when he has trouble cashing a birthday check, he realizes how special his name really is. Based on the book by Itah Sadu.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Language Arts - Reading

- ★ Standard: Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process
- Benchmark: Uses meaning clues (e.g., pictures, picture captions, title, cover, headings, story structure, story topic) to aid comprehension and make predictions about content (e.g., action, events, character's behavior). (See Instructional Goal #2.)
- ★ Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
- Benchmark: Relates stories to personal experiences (e.g., events, characters, conflicts, themes) (See Instructional Goal #3.)
- Benchmark: Understands the basic concept of plot (e.g., main problem, conflict, resolution, cause-and-effect) (See Instructional Goal #1.)

Subject Area: Language Arts - Viewing

- ★ Standard: Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media
- Benchmark: Uses a variety of strategies to predict content and meaning in visual media (e.g., uses knowledge of the structure of television programs: for cartoons, make predictions based on program length, experience that a resolution will be reached and that main characters will overcome difficulties to return to the next episode; uses knowledge of cause-and-effect relationships to predict plot development) (See Instructional Goal #2.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To depict the plot of *Christopher Changes His Name*.
2. To use various clues to understand the story.
3. To relate the story to personal life.

VOCABULARY

1. bad mood
2. check
3. dribble
4. dunk
5. excite
6. fascinate
7. gotcha
8. handle this yourself
9. identification
10. millions
11. open an account
12. rush
13. to drive someone crazy

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Review the North American custom of names: first name, middle name, and last name. List shortened versions of first names and nicknames.
 - a. Who named you? Why did they choose that name?
 - b. What is the meaning of your name?
 - c. Are any of your names religious?
 - d. Did you receive all of your names at birth?
 - e. Did your parents make up your name?
2. Locate Trinidad and Tobago on a map of the world.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why was Christopher Mulamba in a bad mood?
2. What story did Aunt Gail tell him that made him want to change his name? How did Christopher change when he was called Tiger?
3. What led Christopher to change his name to 24? How did he act when he was 24?
4. What did Christopher's teacher call him when he changed his name to Tiger? To 24?
5. Why did 24 want to go to the bank? What problem did he have at the bank? How did he solve the problem?
6. Why did he decide to be called Christopher Mulamba again?

Applications and Activities

1. Predict if Christopher Mulamba will change his name again. Give reasons for your prediction.
2. Research how a person can legally change their name.
3. Survey other students. Ask how many students like their name and how many students would like to change their name. List reasons why someone wants to change their name and what new name they want.
4. Draw or attach a picture of yourself to the middle of a large piece of paper. Brainstorm categories that help define who you are. Consider family, hobbies, talents, favorite things, heroes, friends, religion, and home.
 - a. Draw or attach pictures and write labels for each section surrounding your picture.
 - b. On the back of the paper write a reflection of who you are.

RELATED RESOURCES



- [Ashok by Any Other Name #3333](#)



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

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- **THE NAME LOCATOR SEARCH ENGINE**

<http://www.homepagers.com/names/>

Includes over 20,000 names for both girls and boys. The search options include search by name, search by meaning, and search by origin.

