

Chrysanthemum

by Kevin Henkes

Children will fall in love with the lighthearted and jovial illustrations that tenderly reflect the story of a girl with a unique name.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Do you like your name? If you could have any name, what would it be?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder how big that flower is?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Chrysanthemum*

- chrysanthemum: a perennial garden plant, brightly colored and small clustered petals
- scarcely: hardly at all
- wilted: droop or shrivel
- dreadful: extremely bad, unpleasant, harmful
- miserably: very unhappy
- precious: worth a great deal of money
- priceless: impossible to put a value on
- fascinating: inspiring a great interest or attraction
- winsome: charming, especially because of a naive innocent quality
- jealous: envious, feeling bitter and unhappy because of another's luck or possessions
- envious: wanting what somebody else has
- begrudging: ungenerous
- discounted: reduced
- jaundiced: exhibiting envy
- trifle: something trivial, has little to no importance or significance
- delphinium: plant with flower spikes

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How did Chrysanthemum's parents describe her when she was born?
- Why did Chrysanthemum's parents choose her name?
- What were some of Chrysanthemum's favorite things about her name?
- Why did Chrysanthemum's classmates make fun of her? What did they say about her name?
- How did that make Chrysanthemum feel? How did her parents help her to feel better?
- What happened at school on Chrysanthemum's second day?
- Can you describe her dream?
- Which teacher did the class meet on the third day of school? What did she teach?
- What did Mrs. Twinkle say about Chrysanthemum's name? How did the other students react?
- Did Chrysanthemum ever like her name again?



Do

What's in a Name

Before: print out each child's name on a full piece of paper

You will need: scissors, glue, crayons/markers, children's names and construction paper (each child needs a piece of construction paper for each letter in their name).

Hand each child their name, construction paper, scissors, glue and drawing utensils. Have the children cut out all the letters in their names. Then glue one letter on one piece of construction paper. Then they can draw things that start with that letter or draw things that they love to do. Continue that process with all the letters. Next, have the children stack their letters in the correct name order. You can either staple the papers together to form a book or attach the names on a string and hang around the room.