

Name:

Day One

The Name Game

Part 1: Silent read

➔ In the 1950s and 60s, your name might have been changed at school. Read silently.

Is your name Luis? Are you called Ming? If you lived in the 1950s or 60s, your name might have been changed at school.

Ramón Sánchez grew up in California in the 1950s. He talked about his name to *StoryCorps*. “My name, when I started kindergarten, was Ramón.” But by second grade, the name he went by had changed. “Raymond, hey Raymond,” kids would yell on the playground. Ramón remembers his classmate Maria being called Mary. His classmate Juanita became Jane. Ramón jokes about this now. But the memory stings.

In schools in the 1950s, many kids had names from England. Common American boys’ names were Robert and John. Popular girls’ names were Mary and Susan. Often teachers were less comfortable with names that sounded different to them. If your name was Korean or French, they might not bother to learn the sounds. It was considered acceptable to just call you by an English name instead.

Many immigrants changed their last names when they moved to America. They wanted to fit in and avoid prejudice. Sometimes families simply changed the spelling. The Henri family from Canada became the Henrys. The Boorda family from Russia became the Bird family when they came to New York.

Nowadays kids still give each other nicknames. Nicknames are common when a first name sounds formal. Cameron gets called Cam for short. His friend, Mohammad goes by Mo. What’s different now? These names come from kids’ friends, not from teachers.

Source: “Ramon Chunky Sanchez,” *StoryCorps*.



Day One

// one minute

The Name Game

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Is your name Luis? Are you called Ming? If you lived in the 1950s or 60s, your name might have been changed at school.

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In schools in the 1950s, many kids had names from England. Common American boys’ names were Robert and John. Popular girls’ names were Mary and Susan. Often teachers were less comfortable with names that sounded different to them. If your name was Korean or French, they might not bother to learn the sounds. It was considered acceptable to just call you by an English name instead.

Many immigrants changed their last names when they moved to America. They wanted to fit in and avoid prejudice. Sometimes families simply changed the spelling. The Henri family from Canada became the Henrys. The Boorda family from Russia became the Bird family when they came to New York.

Nowadays kids still give each other nicknames. Nicknames are common when a first name sounds formal. Cameron gets called Cam for short. His friend, Mohammad goes by Mo. What’s different now? These names come from kids’ friends, not from teachers.

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why were kids’ names sometimes changed in the 1950s?

What were popular girls’ names in the 1950s?

Day One

The Name Game

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Is your name Luis? // Are you called Ming? // If you lived in the 1950s or 60s, / your name might have been changed / at school. //

Ramón Sánchez / grew up in California / in the 1950s. // He talked about his name / to *StoryCorps*. // “My name, / when I started kindergarten, / was Ramón.” // But by second grade, / the name he went by had changed. // “Raymond, / hey Raymond,” / kids would yell on the playground. // Ramón remembers his classmate Maria / being called Mary. // His classmate Juanita / became Jane. // Ramón jokes about this now. // But the memory stings. //

In schools in the 1950s, / many kids had names from England. // Common American boys’ names / were Robert and John. // Popular girls’ names / were Mary and Susan. // Often teachers were less comfortable / with names that sounded different to them. // If your name was Korean / or French, / they might not bother / to learn the sounds. // It was considered acceptable / to just call you by an English name / instead. //

Many immigrants changed their last names / when they moved to America. // They wanted to fit in / and avoid prejudice. // Sometimes families / simply changed the spelling. // The Henri family from Canada / became the Henrys. // The Boorda family from Russia / became the Bird family / when they came to New York. //

Nowadays / kids still give each other nicknames. // Nicknames are common / when a first name sounds formal. // Cameron gets called Cam / for short. // His friend, / Mohammad, / goes by Mo. // What’s different now? // These names come from kids’ friends, / not from teachers. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.