

***In the back of your Writer's Notebook write:***



5/ \_\_\_\_ - Writing Strategy #8 – History of a Name

- A. Write a name or a family name at the top of your notebook.
- B. Write a notebook entry exploring a name: What does it mean? What do you like about it? What don't you like? What emotion does it arouse?
- C. When you finish, repeat the strategy with a different name.

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Read the following for an *example* of where a name can take you:

### ***My Name***

In English my name means hope. In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting. It is like the number nine. A muddy color. It is the Mexican records my father plays on Sunday morning when he is shaving, songs like sobbing.

It was my great-grandmother's name and now it is mine. She was a horse woman too, born like me in the Chinese year of the horse – which is supposed to be bad luck if you're born female.

My great-grandmother. I would've liked to have known her, a wild horse of a woman, so wild she wouldn't marry. Until my great-grandfather threw a sack over her head and carried her off. Just like that, as if she were a fancy chandelier. That's the way he did it.

And the story goes she never forgave him. She looked out the window her whole life, the way so many women sit their sadness on an elbow. I wonder if she made the best with what she got or was she sorry because she couldn't be all the things she wanted to be. Esperanza. I have inherited her name, but I don't want to inherit her place by the window.

At school they say my name funny as if the syllables were made out of tin and hurt the roof of your mouth. But in Spanish my name is made out of a softer something, like silver, not quite as thick as sister's name – Magdalena – which is uglier than mine. Magdalena who at least can come home and become Nenny. But I am always Esperanza.

I would like to baptize myself under a new name, a name more like the real me, the one nobody sees. Esperanza as Lisandra or Maritza or Zeze the X. Yes. Something like Zeze the X will do.

Borrowed from ***The House on Mango Street*** page 10 written by Sandra Cisneros  
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***In the front of your Writer's Notebook write:***

5/ \_\_\_\_\_ - Writing Strategy # 8 – History of a Name

Write your full name under the date and strategy, and then write a notebook entry about your name.

1. How were you named?
2. What does your name mean?
3. What do you like about your name?
4. What don't you like about your name or nick name?
5. What name would you give yourself? Explain.

Write a minimum of **two pages**. When finished continue below.

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***In the front of your Writer's Notebook write:***

**Practicing Strategy #8 Again**

This week think about other names:

How have you named your pets?

Names you wish you had?

How your last name came to be?

Favorite character name?

Write at least **one page**. Remember to date your entry.

Due \_\_\_\_\_