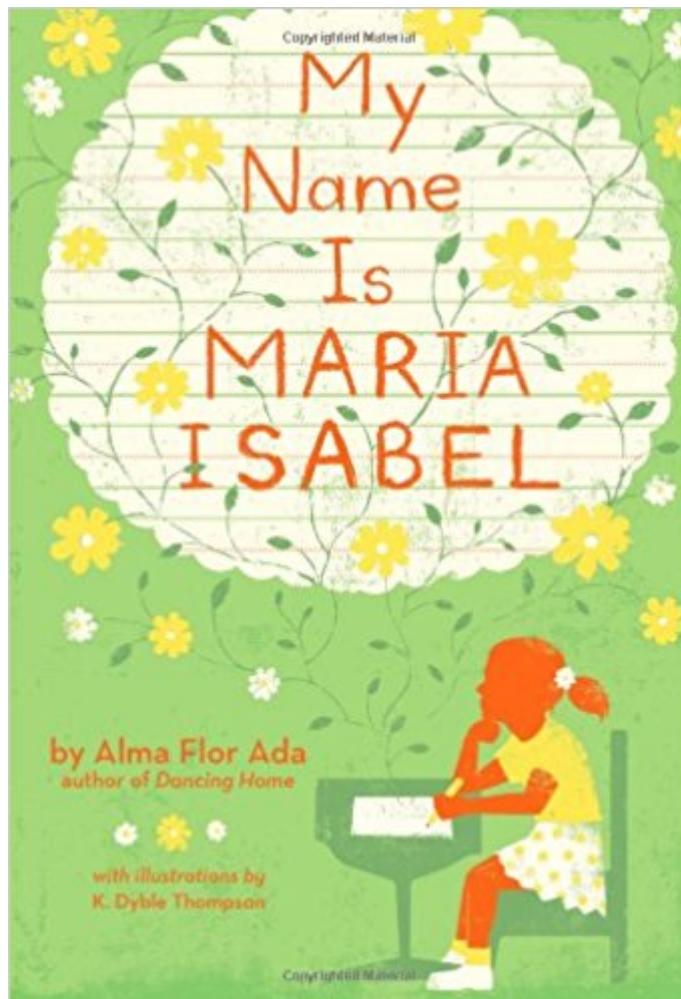


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# My Name Is Maria Isabel



## **Synopsis**

For MarÃ-a Isabel Salazar LÃpez, the hardest thing about being the new girl in school is that the teacher doesn't call her by her real name. "We already have two MarÃ-as in this class," says her teacher. "Why don't we call you Mary instead?" But MarÃ-a Isabel has been named for her PapÃ¡'s mother and for Chabela, her beloved Puerto Rican grandmother. Can she find a way to make her teacher see that if she loses her name, she's lost the most important part of herself?

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 860 (What's this?)

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068980217X

ISBN-13: 978-0689802171

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 41 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #15,132 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #13 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #129 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

Armed with her new blue bookbag, Maria Isabel bravely faces her first day at a new school. But when she meets her new teacher, she is told there are already two other Marias in the class. "Why don't we call you Mary instead?" her teacher suggests, unaware that Maria was named for both her grandmothers, a grandfather and her father. Maria's inability to respond to "Mary" leads to more problems. Simply told, this story combines the struggle of a Puerto Rican family's efforts to improve their life with a shared sense of pride in their heritage. The author's carefully drawn characterizations avoid stereotypes, thus increasing their appeal and believability. An essay involving a wish list gives Maria a chance to reclaim her name, and allows her teacher to make amends. Abetted by Thompson's straightforward black-and-white drawings, this contemporary tale

serves as a good reminder that no two names are really alike. Ages 7-10. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Grade 3-4-- This gentle story tells of Maria Isabel Salazar Lopez, who finds herself dubbed "Mary Lopez" when her family moves and she is placed in a class with two other Marias. Maria Isabel finds it hard to respond to a name that does not seem like hers. Her teacher doesn't understand why it is so difficult for her to answer to "Mary" until the child is inspired to address her paper on "My Greatest Wish" to the topic of her name. The result is not only a happy ending, but also an affirming study of heritage and how it is integrally bound up in an individual's sense of self. The brief text, adequately extended by line drawings, reads aloud well and could certainly be used in conjunction with Gary Soto's *The Skirt* (Delacorte, 1992) to illustrate the Hispanic culture that is part of the lives of many contemporary children. --Ann Welton, Terminal Park Elementary School, Auburn, WA  
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I got this book for my granddaughter who loves to read and she told me it was very good story. I get her book that are for her age or older and that are interesting and teach you something deep about human beings; morals, learning about self, about giving, about being humble, about being who you want to be, about self respect, etc.

4th/5th graders who struggle with reading will find this level M book still engaging. The character is relatable. What a beautiful story about how who we are is determined by so many things. Even our name. I'm an educator and will never shorten or Americanize names without a student's request.

My wife purchased this for her first-grade classroom. She told me she loved it.

Good book to add to my Children's Literature class.

I would recommend reading this book to every child, especially at the beginning of the school year, and for foreign children. It will inspire and it will help those children like Maria Isabel who feel like they are misunderstood or left out.

Lovely book. 2 typos. Classic story by an amazing author. My 2nd grader loved it as do my high schooler.

This is an amazing book about one's identity. I plan to read it to my daughter again when she's a bit older.

this story was for a project, but I can tell you that this one touched my heart. It is short but gets you right at home.

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