

Overview

Essential Question: Who am I? Where do I come from? What is my literary interest?

Before we start Humanities class, we want to give you a taste of what the class will be like. We also want to learn about who you are, what matters to you, where you come from, and what you enjoy. We look forward to seeing what you create for this summer work - and kick-starting your time at The U School. We are a school that wants students to find and develop their passions (Love, Dream, Do) and this is the first step in this process.

Culminating Performance Task(s)

At the end of your summer work, you will have produced **a creative “MY NAME” piece** and a **reading journal for a book of your choice**. This will allow your Humanities educators at The U School to see who you are, what you are interested in, and what you are capable of producing.

You may complete any of these activities online and email them to cmcgeehan@uschool.org and sreed@uschool.org. You can also complete these on paper and give them to us when you come for orientation. You can also email with any questions or concerns.

Student Activities	Goal Date (When do you want to finish this?)	Completed Date (When did you finish this?)
0.01 Read “My Name” by Sandra Cisneros		
0.02 Write Your own “My Name” Piece		
0.03 Read a Book of Your Choice and Create Your Reading Journal		

0.01: Summer Work

Reading "My Name"

Directions: As you read the piece below, highlight or underline words, phrases, or sentences.

- Mark things that are interesting or surprising with an exclamation point (!).
- Mark things that are confusing or that you don't understand with a question mark (?).
- Put a box around and mark with a star (*) the 1-2 lines you find most interesting.

You will use this piece as a model when you write your own "MY NAME" piece in the next activity.

My Name

by: Sandra Cisneros (from: The House on Mango Street)

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 mornings 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-but I think this is a Chinese lie because the Chinese, like the Mexicans, don't like their women strong.

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. 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.

0.02: Summer Work

Performance Task: Your Name (inspired by [Read Write Think](#))

Directions: Use the piece you read by Sandra Cisneros, and write your own piece about your name. You can write it in poetry or paragraphs. You can draw or paint. This can be written on paper or typed online and sent to cmcgeehan@uschool.org and sreed@uschool.org. Be creative - show us who you are and what you can do!

Use the options below to help you develop your ideas.

Option One

Interview members of your family to find out additional details about your name. You can ask questions about why you were named as you were, what other names were considered, and who ended up picking out your name. In addition to the information that others can tell you about your name, gather your own ideas about your name by writing about these questions:

- How do you feel about your name?
- How do others respond to your name?
- If you could pick out your own names, what would you select?

Option Two

If you have a nickname, explore where your nickname came from. You can consider a nickname that your family has given you or one that friends have given you. The only requirement is that you either you can interview someone who knows the story of how the nickname was chosen OR you were there when the nickname was chosen so you're aware of the details of the choice. Ask questions or think and write about why you were given the nickname you were, what other nicknames were considered, and who ended up picking out your nickname. In addition, you can gather your own ideas about your nickname by writing about these questions:

- How do you feel about your name?
- How do others respond to your name?
- If you could pick out your own names, what would you select?

Option Three

Explore the story of a friend or family member's name. You can choose someone you want to learn more about or someone with an unusual name. Interview the person you've chosen to learn more about how he or she was named. You can ask questions about why the person was named as he or she was, what other names were considered, and who ended up picking out the name. To learn more about the person's name, you can these interview questions:

- How do you feel about your name?
- How do others respond to your name?
- If you could pick out your own names, what would you select?

0.03: Summer Work

Double-Entry Reading Journal (inspired by Hamilton HS model)

Directions: Choose a book that you would like to read this summer. It can be fiction or non-fiction, poetry or prose. If you enjoy graphic novels or comic books, you can write about those. If you just like to read the newspaper, feel free to write about that. Whatever you read, it should be more than 100 pages in length. **We want to know what you're interested in, so choose something that truly matters to you.**

While you read, you should keep a double-entry reading journal. You can either buy a notebook, or create a notebook using the directions we've provided.

The purpose of a double entry reading log is to help you understand and remember what you read. It asks you to note in writing those aspects of your reading that strike them in some way, perhaps something you question or don't understand or something you agree or disagree with. Then once you have noted that part, you are asked to react to it, to reflect upon it, to question it, to think about how it is related to other parts of what they are reading or to something outside the text. The two sides of the double-entry reading log represent a dialogue between you and the reading.

Divide a page lengthwise into two columns. At the top, write the date, the title/chapter of the reading, and the author if appropriate. In the left column, write a quote from the reading. (If it's a longer piece of writing, including the page number may be useful.) Then in the right column, write your reaction to that entry.

Idea or quote from the text	Your reaction
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quote directly from the reading: words, phrases or sentences that for you clearly suggest meaning or that you simply like. Write down anything you find challenging or different: any image or idea, or way of saying something that strikes you in some way. Write down any parts you don't understand or parts you have questions or problems with. List words whose meanings you don't know for sure. If you to, draw pictures or diagrams to help you understand the reading. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Comment on a direct quote. Explain why you found it significant or enjoyable. Or paraphrase it. Explain why you found something challenging or different. Analyze it. Try to explore anything that confuses you or gives you trouble. Write your question(s). You don't have to answer the questions, just try to figure out what the questions are. Or challenge the point being made: argue. Consult a dictionary and write definitions of words you don't know. Explain your drawings to achieve further understanding of the reading. Make closing comments about the reading as a whole.

0.03 How to create a journal for your summer reading

1 Get the materials (which you'll probably find at home) and get started.

You'll need a pencil too, for the basic structure of your journal.

Materials:

- Copy paper (20-40 sheets)
- Ruler
- Glue
- Cardstock (2 pieces)
- markers



2 Join all the copy paper sheets and compact them with your hand. If you have someone to help you, better. If not though, that's okay. You have to apply a lot of compression to the sheets—consider holding them down with a textbook or dictionary.



3 Pick up the white glue, or liquid glue. Spread a thick layer of glue on the side of the compressed sheets you think the spine of the diary will be. Don't worry if some glue spreads beneath some sheets. The important thing is that there is a lot of glue in the spine so the sheets won't be loose. The worst part is: you have to compress the sheets until the glue is dried, so the sheets won't be hanging out.



4 Now that the glue in the spine of the book is dry, cut a straight piece of paper, and **glue it to the glued spine of the book.** You have to remember that you need at least a 3 centimeter (1.2 in) border to each side. These 3 centimeter (1.2 in) of normal paper will be glued on the first and last normal sheets of the inside of the book.



5 Take the card stock paper and with the white/liquid glue, glue firmly each piece of cardboard to the first and last normal sheet pages of the notebook. Your diary will be more resistant now. These cardboard pieces, glued to the last and first page will be the cover.



6 Unleash your imagination! Start to decorate the cover of your diary! Cut old magazines and glue the cuttings to the cover of your diary! Draw in the cover, spell out your name or glue stickers in it! It's all up to you!



7 Start writing in your journal! Put the date on the top of each page. This will allow your Humanities educators at The U School to see who you are, what you are interested in, and what you are capable of producing.

Draw, glue, be imaginative! Most importantly: Have fun!

