



What Makes A Name Special?
By Isabelle Schaefer

Is it fair to have your name made fun of in school? I don't think it is fair because it's unkind, embarrassing, & depressing. *My Name Is Aviva* by Leslea Newman and Ag Jatkowska is a story about a girl who's being teased about her name when she is waiting for her mom to pick her up from school. When her mom comes, Aviva tells her mother she wants to be called Emily. As Aviva and her mom are walking home, Aviva asks why she's named Aviva. After that, Aviva learns lots of things about her great grandmother. She made very good soup and shared it with people who were hungry. She worked in a lace factory. She spoke Yiddish as a little girl and had to learn English because she came to America for a better life. Soon after she learned lots of things about her great-grandmother, Aviva felt proud. Other people think that *My Name Is Aviva* by Leslea Newman is a story about a girl who doesn't like her name. However, I think the story is about a girl who comes to like her name once she knows the meaning behind it.

One way Aviva comes to like her name is learning about grandma Ada's traits. Mommy told Aviva that Grandma Ada made chicken soup for other people. "Anyone who is hungry may have a bowl for free" (pg. 13). This means Grandma Ada was kind because she didn't want anyone to have to pay money for her soup. Learning about Grandma Ada making soup helped Aviva see that Grandma Ada was kind because she cared about others who did not have lots of money.

Aviva learned who taught her mother how to sew. Mommy says, "Grandma Ada worked in a lace factory...When her stitches were as fine as spider webs he

quickly changed his mind." (pg 16). This explains that Grandma Ada was talented because she worked in a lace factory. Finding out that Grandma Ada worked in a lace factory showed Aviva that her great-grandmother was talented because she was able to sew at a young age.

Aviva learned who taught her mother how to read. Mommy says, "Grandma Ada spoke Yiddish as a little girl. When she first saw English letters they looked like little bugs crawling all over the page"(pg.19). This implies that Grandma Ada was smart because she learned English. Aviva finding out that Grandma Ada spoke Yiddish as a little girl made Aviva find more things about her family.

Aviva learned who taught her mother about the stars. Mommy says, "Grandma Ada sailed from Russia to America on a great big ship. When Grandma Ada saw the big dipper she said It looked like her soup ladle" (pg.24). Grandma Ada was brave because she sailed on a big ship to America.

The other way Aviva comes to like her name is by learning the translation of her name. Mommy told Aviva why she was named Aviva and what her name means. Mommy said, "Grandma Ada's Hebrew name was Aviva which means spring" (pg29). This means Aviva was named after her Great- Grandmother's Hebrew name.

After a long day of disliking her name, Aviva's parents are tucking her into bed. Aviva tells her parents she doesn't want to be called Emily anymore. She wants to be called by her own name. This moment is important because it shows the reader the first time Aviva likes her name.

The big idea is that all people should learn the meaning of their name. My personal connection to *My Name Is Aviva* is that my parents named me Isabelle after my great-grandmother Ida. My middle name Felicia came from my great-grandmother Frances. My parents didn't want to name me Ida or Frances because they were olden day names. So they named me Isabelle Felicia Schaefer, which is a name I like. Just like Aviva, I think people who don't like their name may come to love their name once they learn the meaning behind it.

Self-Assessment Form: Literary Essay Writing

1. What are the most important things you learned about writing a literary essay?

The most important things I learned about writing a literary essay are using quotes and summaries because they support the thesis statement.

2. What did you find most challenging about writing a literary essay and why?

The most challenging thing about writing a literary essay was developing a thesis statement because it was hard for me to think of something to prove.

3. How did you grow as a writer during this unit?

I grew as a writer by making a thesis statement about a story. Also I made my literary essay very long even though it was my first time doing it.

Literary Essay - V3

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Other people think that *My Name Is Aviva* by Leslea Newman is a story about a girl who doesn't like her name. However, I think the story is about a girl who comes to like her name once she knows the meaning behind it.

One way Aviva comes to like her name is learning about grandma Ada's traits.

Mommy told Aviva that Grandma Ada made chicken soup for other people. "Anyone who is hungry may have a bowl for free" (pg. 13). This means Grandma Ada was kind because she didn't want anyone to have to pay money for her soup. Learning about Grandma Ada making soup changed Aviva's mind by coming back to liking her name.

Aviva learned who taught mommy how to sew. Mommy says, "Grandma Ada worked in a lace factory." "When her stitches were as fine as spider webs he quickly changed his mind." (pg 16). This explains that Grandma Ada was talented because she worked in a lace factory. Finding out that Grandma Ada worked in a lace factory showed Aviva that she should care about her name.

Aviva learned who taught mommy how to read. Mommy says, "Grandma Ada spoke Yiddish as a little girl. When she first saw English letters they looked like little bugs crawling all over the page" (pg.19). This implies that Grandma Ada was smart because she learned English. Aviva finding out that Grandma Ada spoke Yiddish as a little girl made Aviva find more things about her family.

Aviva learned who taught mommy about the stars. Mommy says, "Grandma Ada sailed from Russia to America on a great big ship. When Grandma Ada saw the big dipper she said It looked like her soup ladle" (pg.24). **This shows that Grandma Ada was brave because she sailed on a big ship to America.**

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After a long day of disliking her name, Aviva's parents are tucking her into bed. Aviva tells her parents she doesn't want to be called Emily anymore. She wants to be called by her own name. This moment is important because it shows the reader the first time Aviva likes her name.

The big idea is that all people should learn the meaning of their name. My personal connection to *My Name Is Aviva* is that my parents named me Isabelle after my great-grandmother Ida. My middle name Felicia came from my great-grandmother Frances. My parents didn't want to name me Ida or Frances because they were olden day names. So they named me Isabelle Felicia Schaefer, which is a name I like. Just like Aviva, I think people who don't like their name may come to love their name once they learn the meaning behind it.

Literary Essay V2

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Mommy says, "Grandma Ada made chicken soup." Anyone who is hungry may have a bowl for free. "[pg 13]" This means grandma Ada was kind because she didn't want anyone to have to pay money for soup.

Aviva learned who taught mommy how to sew. Mommy says, "Grandma Ada worked in a lace factory." "When her stitches were as fine as spider webs he quickly changed his mind." (pg 10). This means grandma Ada was talented because she worked in a lace factory.

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After a long day of disliking her name, Aviva's parents are tucking her into bed. Aviva tells her parents she doesn't want to be called Emily anymore. She wants to be called by her own name. This moment is important because it shows the reader the first time Aviva likes her name.

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Literary Essay V1

While Aviva is waiting for her mom to pick her up from school, two kids make fun of her name. As Aviva and her mom are walking home, Aviva asks why she's named Aviva. After that, Aviva learns lots of things about her great grandmother. She made very good soup and shared it with people who were hungry. She worked in a lace factory. She spoke yiddish as a little girl and had to learn English because she came to America for a better life. Soon after she learned lots of things about her great-grandmother, Aviva came to like her name because she learned the meaning behind it.

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