

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

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Illustrator

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Reviewer

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Pages

Unpaged

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\$19.99

ISBN

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Publisher & Date

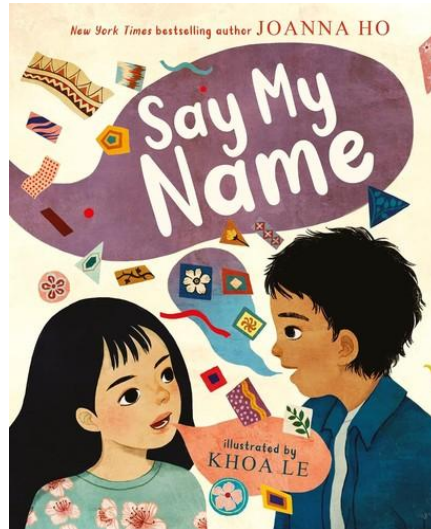
Harper, 2023

Classification

Fiction

Grade Level

PreK-3



Book Review: SAY MY NAME

Names are important to a person's identity. They often reflect one's ethnicity and culture, and they often have a family story behind them. This book introduces the reader to six children of different cultural backgrounds and ethnicities, each with names of significance.

Filled with metaphorical expressions and lyrical language, the book expresses the primary message that learning to say people's names is important. At the same time, the author does not provide phonetic pronunciations for these ethnically specific names when they are introduced, negating the point of the book. It is not until the last pages of the book that the reader is provided with the pronunciation of the names. The reader goes through the entire book not knowing how to say each name correctly.

The illustrations are beautiful and provide some context for the words on the page, but the phrases on the page are so abstract that the reader is left questioning if the author is talking about the child's background, ethnicity, or name. At times it is not even clear if the writer has started talking about the next child. While this is a beautiful book, it is not one that will be easy for younger children to understand. I recommend this book but with reservation.



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Book Review: SAY MY NAME



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