

## ONE PAGER TEMPLATE

**LESSON TITLE:** Always Anjali - What does your name mean?

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** Kindergarten

**LESSON AUTHOR(S):** Jayde Lambert

**AUTHOR AFFILIATION (SCHOOL):** Dekalb International Community School

**SUBJECT AREAS AND STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:** (Write the complete standard number. Delete or add subjects as appropriate)

Language Arts

- **ELAGSEKSL6:** Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.
- **ELAGSEKL1:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
  - a. Print many upper- and lowercase letters.

**IB FRAMEWORK CONNECTION (optional):** Inquirers, Communicators, Open-Minded

**K-12 ASIAN AMERICAN FRAMEWORK EMPHASIS (optional):** Identity - exploration of self, Reclamation & Joy - creative expression

**GLOBAL CONNECTION (optional):**

**INSTRUCTIONAL TIME OR CLASS SESSIONS REQUIRED:** 4-5 School Days

30 Minutes - Read Aloud (Day One)

45 minutes minutes - Over several days for students to present and role play scenario (3-5 students a day)

15 Minutes - Morning Meetings (over 3 days)

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF CONTENT BACKGROUND** (Provide a detailed background information of historical event, figure, or topic that is addressed in the lesson.)

*Always Anjali* by Sheetal Sheth explores themes of identity, cultural heritage, and self-acceptance through the experiences of an Indian-American girl navigating her dual identity. The book reflects the historical struggles of Indian immigrants in the U.S., particularly the challenges of preserving cultural identity while facing societal pressures to conform. Names play a crucial role in identity, and many immigrants have faced discrimination or felt compelled to change

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their names to fit in. The story highlights the importance of embracing one's uniqueness despite societal expectations. Additionally, it contributes to the growing representation of diverse voices in children's literature, promoting inclusivity and cultural pride while encouraging empathy among young readers.

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES/LESSON OUTLINE:**

The five-day lesson on *Always Anjali* incorporates social-emotional learning (SEL) and literacy to help students explore feelings, identity, and self-expression. On Day 1, students discuss the emotion of frustration and make predictions about the story before engaging in a read-aloud with guided questioning, followed by a discussion on the meaning of their names. Day 2 reviews the story, focusing on Anjali's emotional journey and introducing a creative project where students design their own name license plates, incorporating cultural elements. Day 3 begins with morning SEL check-ins, and students start presenting their license plates, practicing speaking and listening skills while also role-playing scenarios on handling name mispronunciations. Days 4 and 5 continue presentations and include more role-play activities addressing conflict resolution and emotional regulation. The lesson closes with a reflection on the significance of names, fostering cultural appreciation, empathy, and respectful communication.