

The Name She Says Again



Nussbaum Mind

Illustration coming soon

Ages 6-9



The Name She Says Again

Ages 6-9



Chapter 1: The new girl

On Monday, a new girl sits at the desk beside Devorah.

She has a long braid and a lunch bag with a purple zipper. Morah Gila writes her name on the board in big letters: SHULAMIS.

"Class, please say hello to Shulamis," says Morah Gila.

"Hello, Shula-MIST," says Devorah, and a few girls giggle.

The new girl's smile wobbles.

Chapter 2: Hot cheeks

Devorah's cheeks turn hot.

She did not mean it as a joke. She sounded out the letters, and the word came out like something you spray on a window.

Now three girls are whispering "Shula-mist, Shula-mist," and laughing behind their hands.

Devorah looks at her desk. She does not know whether to laugh with them or say something else.

Chapter 3: The quiet question

At lunch, Devorah sits across from Shulamis and holds her sandwich with both hands.



She could say nothing. She could say, "Sorry," quickly and look away. She could keep saying "Shula-mist" and hope nobody minds.

None of those feel right.

"Can I ask you something?" she says.

Shulamis looks up. "Okay."

"How do you say your name? I think I said it wrong."

Chapter 4: The right way

Shulamis puts down her fork.

"Shu-LAH-mis," she says slowly. "The middle is loud."

"Shu-LAH-mis?"

"Yes. You said the end like a window spray."

Devorah blinks. Then she laughs, and Shulamis laughs too, a small real laugh.

"I'm sorry," Devorah says. "I didn't mean the joke part. I only sounded it out."

"I know. It happens. I have to say it a lot of times."

Chapter 5: Practice

On the walk back to class, Devorah practices under her breath.

"Shu-LAH-mis. Shu-LAH-mis."



Some of the sounds get stuck. Once she says Shu-la-MEES, and she stops, takes a breath and starts again.

Shulamis does not mind. She says it with her again, slowly, like a song with a loud middle.

A bell rings somewhere down the hall. Neither of them hurries. The name needs a few more tries, and there is time for that.

"Better," she says.

"Still wobbly," says Devorah.

"Wobbly is okay."

Chapter 6: The whispering

At the hallway door, two of the girls begin again. "Shula-mist!"

Devorah feels her stomach tighten.

She turns around. "Her name is Shu-LAH-mis. The middle is loud. I got it wrong too, but I asked her."

One girl shrugs. "We were only playing."

"It sounded like teasing," Devorah says. Her voice is small but steady. "Could you say it her way?"

The girl glances at Shulamis, then at her shoes.



"Shu-LAH-mis," she says, a little quickly.

"Thank you," says Shulamis.

Chapter 7: Her name

All week, Devorah practices. She says it in the lunch line and while she hangs up her coat. By Thursday, the name comes out right most of the time.

Once, on Wednesday, it comes out wrong again. Devorah stops, says "Sorry, let me try again," and gets it right. Shulamis only nods.

On Friday, Devorah gives Shulamis a small card. She wrote the name in purple letters, with a dot over the A to show the loud part.

Shulamis tapes it inside her desk.

"Now I don't have to say it so many times," she says.

"I'll say it with you," says Devorah. "Shu-LAH-mis."

"Shu-LAH-mis," says the whole row, together, a little off the beat.

The name rolls down the row like a song, and this time nobody laughs at it.



Name order

Number the cards in story order.

Devorah gives Shulamis a purple name card.

Devorah asks how to say the name.

Devorah says the name the wrong way.

Devorah asks the girls to say it Shulamis's way.

Devorah practices the loud middle on the walk.



Slip or tease?

Mark SLIP for a wrong try that was not meant to hurt. Mark TEASING for repeating it to laugh.

Story statement	SLIP	TEASING
Devorah sounds out the letters and says it wrong.	☐	☐
Three girls whisper it and laugh.	☐	☐
On the walk, Devorah says Shu-la-MEES and tries again.	☐	☐



Ask and try again

Choose the sentence that asks kindly. Rewrite one other sentence in your own words.

Sentence	Kind?
☐ How do you say your name?	
☐ Everybody says it that way.	
☐ Could you say it her way?	

One sentence in your own words



Practice path

Draw a path through the steps that help with a name.

Start

Ask how to say it.

Keep the wrong version.

Listen to the loud part.

Try again when it wobbles.

Laugh it off.

Ask once for the right name.

Make a small card.

A kind way to practice



A name to practice

Use a fictional name. Write it, then mark the loud part.

A fictional name written out

The loud part of the name

How to ask someone to teach you



Say it her way

Read the reminders with an adult. Choose one that fits. Final stickers are 2 1/4-inch squares.

**Ask how to say
it**

Wobbly is okay

Try again

Say it their way

**Ask the teasers
once**

A name matters



The name card

Draw a card with a made-up name in big letters and a dot above the loud part.



A detail I add to the name card



Find the name words

Find NAME, ASK, LOUD, TRY, AGAIN, WOBBLY, CARD, KIND.
All go left to right. Tell one word's part in the story.

N	A	M	E	X	Q	Z	B	W	P
X	A	S	K	Q	M	D	F	G	H
Z	L	O	U	D	P	X	K	H	B
Q	T	R	Y	B	V	D	W	C	N
X	A	G	A	I	N	M	Z	P	G
B	W	O	B	B	L	Y	D	F	G
X	C	A	R	D	Q	W	X	Z	M
K	K	I	N	D	X	C	B	N	M
P	Q	M	Z	X	W	V	B	D	F
C	B	N	M	K	X	Q	Z	P	D

NAME**ASK****LOUD****TRY****AGAIN****WOBBLY****CARD****KIND**

One word's part in the story



Parent notes and answers

Discussion questions:

How did Devorah say Shulamis's name at first?

What did Devorah do at lunch?

What did Shulamis say about the loud part?

What did Devorah do when others kept saying it the wrong way?

How did the card help?

Parent tool: Asking how to say a name is a kind way to repair a slip. Practice can be wobbly. A child can ask peers once to use the correct name without lecturing. Avoid shaming the child who first mispronounced it. Keep teasing from becoming the story's center.

1. Listed order 5, 2, 1, 4, 3.
2. SLIP: Devorah says Shula-MIST at first. TEASING: the girls whisper Shula-mist and laugh.
3. Kind: How do you say your name? Could you say it her way? Not kind: Everybody says it that way.
4. Useful nodes: Ask how to say it; Listen to the loud part; Try again when it wobbles; Ask once for the right name; Make a small card. Not useful nodes: Keep the wrong version; Laugh it off.
5. Open. Example: Shu-LAH-mis, loud part in capitals. Any fictional name will do.
6. Open. Wobbly is okay while someone practices.
7. Open. Any made-up name works. No people needed.
8. NAME: row 1, column 1, right; ASK: row 2, column 2, right; LOUD: row 3, column 2, right; TRY: row 4, column 2, right; AGAIN: row 5, column 2, right; WOBBLY: row 6, column 2, right; CARD: row 7, column 2, right; KIND: row 8, column 2, right