

A READ-ALoud ACTIVITY KIT FOR

CHRYSANTHEMUM

Companion Activities for the Book by Kevin Henkes

HELLO

my name is

Every name has a story. Let's find out about yours!

Activities to go with *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes. Find it at your local library! This free kit is not affiliated with or endorsed by the author or publisher.

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WILT OR BLOOM?

When the kids tease Chrysanthemum, she wilts. When someone is kind, she blooms! Read each line below, and color the flower that shows how these words would make you feel.

1 A friend says, "I love your name!"



BLOOM



WILT

2 Someone laughs at your drawing.



BLOOM



WILT

3 Grandma gives you a big hug.



BLOOM



WILT

4 Nobody picks you to play.



BLOOM



WILT

5 A friend shares a snack with you.



BLOOM



WILT

6 Someone says, "Your name is silly."



BLOOM



WILT

ALL ABOUT MY NAME

Chrysanthemum has 13 letters in her name. How many are in yours? Write one letter in each box, then color the boxes. Try it with your family's names, too!

 **CHRYSANTHEMUM**

C

H

R

Y

S

A

N

T

H

E

M

U

M

 **ME**

 _____

 _____

 _____

Whose name is the longest? _____

Whose name is the shortest? _____

LEVEL UP How many more letters does Chrysanthemum have than you? _____

THE STORY OF MY NAME

Every name has a story! Ask a grown-up these questions and write down what they say.

1 Who picked my name?

2 Was I almost named something else?

3 Why did you pick my name?

4 Does my name mean something?

5 What do I love about my name?

MY NAME IN FANCY LETTERS

Write your name in the fanciest way possible.

FLOWER NAMES

Chrysanthemum is named after a flower. Draw a line from each flower to its name. Then color the flowers.



TULIP

Shaped like a little cup.

CHRYSANTHEMUM

Lots and lots of skinny petals, like a pom-pom.

DELPHINIUM

Tall, with tiny flowers all the way up. It's Mrs. Twinkle's first name!

DAISY

White petals around a yellow center.

MY FLOWER NAME

If I were a flower, my name would be _____

DRAW YOUR FLOWER

NAME IT TO TAME IT

Draw Chrysanthemum's face at each part of the story. Then pick a feeling word from the list that fits.

proud

happy

embarrassed

sad

hurt

surprised

excited

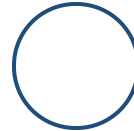
worried

HER FACE

FEELING WORD

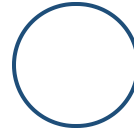
1

Her parents tell her that her name is perfect.



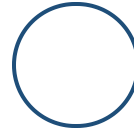
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The kids at school giggle at her long name.



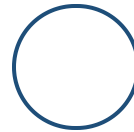
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Mrs. Twinkle says her name is long, and a flower name too!

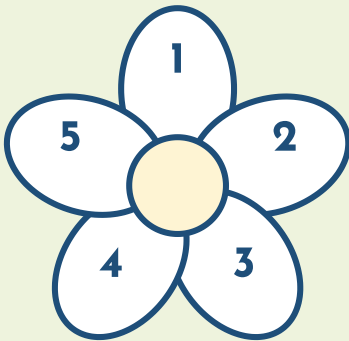


4

By the end, the other kids want flower names.



A feeling I had today: _____



FLOWER BREATHING

When a feeling gets big, try this. **Pretend you're holding a flower, and smell it by** breathing in slowly through your nose. Pretend to blow the petals by breathing out slowly through your mouth. Color one petal for each breath you take in and out.

TALK TO YOURSELF LIKE A FRIEND

Some thoughts make us wilt. Turn each wilting thought into a blooming one, the kind thing you'd say to a friend. The first one is done for you.



My name is weird.



*My name is special,
like me.*



I'll never be good at
this.





Nobody wants to play
with me.



MY NAME, MY WAY

An acrostic poem uses the letters of a word to start each line. Write your name by putting one letter in each colored box. Then write a kind word about yourself that starts with each letter.

EXAMPLE

S	<i>silly</i>
A	<i>awesome</i>
M	<i>musical</i>

STUCK?

Ask a grown-up for a word, or try one of these: brave, curious, funny, gentle, happy, kind, loving, strong.

Have a long name like Chrysanthemum? Keep going on the back!

BE A FRIEND

BE AN UPSTANDER

An upstander is someone who speaks up when another kid is being teased. At school, Victoria makes fun of Chrysanthemum's long name. If you were there, what could you say? Color the bubble you'd pick.

☐

"Her name is beautiful!"

☐

"That isn't kind. Please stop."

☐

"Come play with me, Chrysanthemum!"

Or I could say: _____

WALK IN HER SHOES

In the class play, Victoria forgets her lines in front of everyone. Victoria wasn't kind to Chrysanthemum, but she has feelings too. How do you think she felt? Circle all that fit.

embarrassed

sad

worried

silly

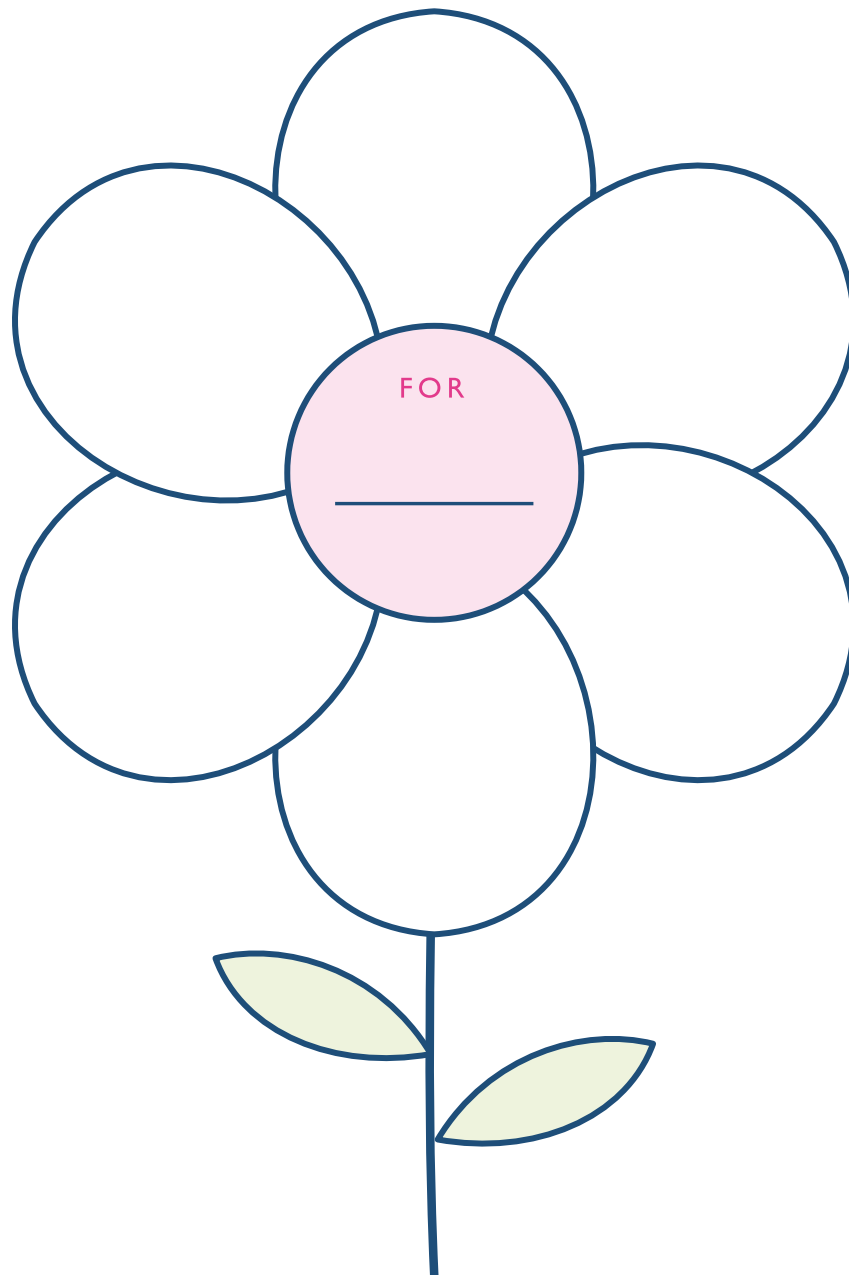
scared

upset

What could Chrysanthemum say to help Victoria feel better?

A FLOWER OF KIND WORDS

Pick someone you love. Write their name in the middle of the flower, then write something kind about them on each petal. Color it in, sign it, and give it to them!



Love, _____

GET MOVING!

Stand up, make some room, and get your whole body into the story!

1 WILT AND BLOOM

A grown-up reads each sentence out loud. If it's kind, **bloom**: stretch up tall and open your arms wide. If it's unkind, **wilt**: droop all the way down low.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 "I saved you a seat!" | 2 "Want to share my crayons?" |
| 3 "That's a weird name." | 4 "You worked so hard. Great job!" |
| 5 "You can't play with us." | 6 "Nobody likes your drawing." |
| 7 "I'm so glad you're my friend." | 8 "Ha! You got it wrong." |

2 GROW LIKE A FLOWER

A grown-up counts slowly to 10 while you grow from a tiny seed into a flower.

COUNT 1-2 SEED

Curl up as small
as you can.

COUNT 3-4 SPROUT

Kneel and poke
one arm up.

COUNT 5-6 STEM

Slowly stand up
tall.

COUNT 7-8 LEAVES

Stretch your arms
out wide.

COUNT 9-10 BLOOM!

Reach high and
open your hands.

How did it go?

☐

wobbly

☐

pretty good

☐

perfect bloom

FLOWER JOKES

Read each joke to someone in your family. Can they guess the punchline? Flip the page to find out!

1

What did the big flower say to the little flower?

Hi, bud!

2

Knock knock.

Who's there?

Iris.

Iris who?

Iris you would open the door!

3

Why couldn't the flower ride its bike?

It lost its petals!

4

What kind of flower grows on your face?

Tulips (two lips)!

WRITE YOUR OWN FLOWER JOKE