



# The Change Your Name Store

*Leanne Shirtliffe , Tina Kugler (Illustrations)*

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*A staggering 93% of picture books feature Caucasian main characters. The spunky Wilma Lee Wu changes that.*

Meet Wilma Lee Wu, a spirited girl whose quest for a new name takes her around the world.

Largely ignored by her slacker parents and constantly annoyed by her brother, Wilma Lee Wu marches to the Change Your Name Store where she meets Zeena McFouz, the outrageous owner. Soon Zeena helps Wilma try on new names. Each time Wilma selects one, she is transported to the country from which the name originates. Will Wilma find a new name that she likes? Will she discover her real identity and where she truly belongs?

Told in playful rhyme and filled with delightful illustrations, *The Change Your Name Store* is destined to become a read-aloud favorite.

Teacher's Guide, printables, activities and projects are available here: <http://namestore.wordpress.com/>

## The Change Your Name Store Details

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Author : Leanne Shirliffe , Tina Kugler (Illustrations)

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# From Reader Review The Change Your Name Store for online ebook

## Linda says

With the happiest of illustrations and humorous rhyme, little girl Wilma Le Wu searches for a name that fits. She thinks her name is boring! At the Change Your Name store, she chooses more than one name that sounds wonderful, and off to France, Bahrain, Belize and Africa she goes. Those places happen to be wonderful, but just don't fit Wilma. After the exploration, a satisfactory solution is found. Read the book to see if you guessed the ending! It's a great story for discussing names and interesting names that come from other countries or cultures. Some may even be a classmate's name!

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## Taylor Wilken says

### Summary:

This is a story of a little girl named Wilma Lee Wu. Wilma loved to do lots of different things, but one thing she doesn't love is her name. She was determined to change her name. So she went to the one place that could take care of her problem, the Change Your Name Store. Ms. Zeena McFouz is the woman who runs the store. Zeena helps Wilma try out a few different names. Each name she tried transported her to a different place in the world where the new name belonged. For example, the name Babette Bijou took her to Paris and the name Samiya bint Sami al Sala took her to Bahrain. After trying five very different names, Wilma came to the conclusion that none of them were right for her. She continued to search until she came across the name Wilma Lee Wu. She exclaimed that this one was perfectly her! She returned home to tell her parents which name she selected and told them proudly that her name is Wilma Lee Wu.

### Activity:

This activity would require two days of classroom time. Day one would consist of reading the book aloud and giving homework instructions. Each student would be required to go home that evening and talk to their parents about the history of their name. They would interview their parents with questions like, "Was I named after anyone?" "Is my name a family name?" "What does my name mean?" "How did you decide to name me this?"

The following day they would each make a 1-2 minute oral presentation of their findings. The students would be expected to explain to the class what their name means and why they were given that name. They would then explain why they are proud to have their own unique name and what it means to them.

### Citation:

Shirtliffe, L., Kugler, T. (2014). The Change Your Name Store. New York, NY: Sky Pony Press.

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## Sheri says

Rhyming text tells the story of Wilma Lee Wu who wants a new name. A store for choosing names takes Wilma on a journey to different places trying out new names. And her final choice is one she loves the best of all the choices she has tried. This book could be used as a class story starter to write about what a child would like to be called if they could change their name or something else about themselves for one day.

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## **Julie says**

Here's what I've learned in the week The Change Your Name Store has been in my house: kids think about names. A lot. The main character in this book, Wilma Lee Wu, is unhappy with her name, so she seeks out The Change Your Name Store to see if she can find one that suits her better. There's a catch, of course: you pick a name, you must inhabit it completely. So if Wilma considers Babette Bijou, she finds herself in Paris, and if she wants to be Samiya bint Sami al Sala, she's suddenly on the street in Bahrain.

My kids love changing their names. If they're pretending to be a princess, a dinosaur, a dog, or a teacher, they have to find just the right name for their new persona. So they are completely in love with Wilma and her dilemma. But what they REALLY love about this book are the illustrations, which are quirky and colorful and have loads of fun details, and best of all: loads of NAMES. There are hundreds of names in this book, all over the walls of The Change Your Name Store, and it's like a treasure hunt to try to find names that belong to people you know. And the best part is, the names aren't just Peter and Emma, though those are there too, but there's Nasai, Mielikki, Tamika, Kanisha, Logan, Kiyoko, Jalal, Wasim, Fatima... I bet your kids know someone whose name is in this book!

Recommended for everyone who has a name.

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## **Michelle Newman says**

If a book full of fun, is something you like  
This book is for you, and for your young tyke!  
Wilma Lee Wu is the kind of small girl  
Who'll make you instantly smile and break out in a twirl!  
The story is original, the message is great  
It's all told in rhyme, which is something you won't hate!  
The illustrations are bold, colorful and fun  
They add to the story from page number one!  
My kids are grown up, but we all still agree  
"The Change Your Name Store" is the best it can be!

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## **Viviane Elbee says**

The little girl in this book wants to change her name, so she goes to a special name store and tries on names. Each time she tries on a name, she lands in a different country / culture.

If you're looking for an appreciate-your-name and your background sort of theme, this is an amusing story and the artwork is lovely.

However, if you're looking to introduce children to different cultures, this is not the best choice. (Explaining that this is a fictional work and that Wilma's experiences abroad are exaggerated & unreal may help.)

The kids enjoyed this book.

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### **Kris Dersch says**

It's clearly just me and I'm probably being grumpy old lady on this, but I found this book super off-putting. Wilma Lee Wu wants a new name so she heads off to this store and finds a crazy lady who helps her try on names, okay, so far we are cool. But each name transports her to its place of origin as a way of trying it out...um, okay, except your name can be of your family origin with you living someplace else, but okay, it's still cute, I'm with you. But then each place bothers her in some way so she comes back. Now it's starting to get weird. And then....she goes back to her own name. Which doesn't transport her anywhere, doesn't speak of her origin (again, it doesn't have to but every other name has so, what is going on here?) It's just hers because...it doesn't take her anywhere? Clearly I have missed the point and am just a grumpy old lady, but I feel like this book tried to give a lesson on diversity and missed its mark big time. Also, what is with the slacker parents ignoring her? I'm just totally confused by this book...I like the idea of a non-Caucasian protagonist with a name suggesting her heritage, but this one doesn't \*do\* anything with that premise.

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### **Raina says**

While it can be enticing to have someone else's life, sometimes you realize that the life you have today fits you and is just right.

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### **Oluwaseyi Adeniji says**

Genre: Poetry and Verse

This was a cute, rhyming book about a little girl who thought her name was too boring and so she went on a search in the Change your Name Store to find a new one. This book did play off of stereotypes, but I do not think it was done in a bad way. When Wilma chose a name that was French, she was shown with a beret on her head and a cup of tea. When she was given a name that was Arabic she was shown in the market wearing a hijab with different pots, rugs and foods in the background. When she chose a name that came from Belize depictions of the Carnival celebration were shown. I think because this book was intended to be more fun than it was informative it did a good job of using rhyme but also using the imagery to represent cultural aspects of the names that she chose. I also liked that the illustrations in the Change your Name Store showed so many different names and different languages too. There was a lot of detail in the pictures that students would be able to pick up on.

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### **Nola says**

Wilma Lee Wu doesn't like her name, so she goes to the 'Change Your Name' store to find a new one. The owner insists that she try out each name first. Each name indicates a different nationality and she finds herself in each country, including France, Bahrain, Belize, and Kenya. But will any name suit as well as her own?

An original story with educational value as we get a glimpse of the different countries. Good illustrations too, with lots to look at.

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### **Erin Gingerich says**

This is exactly what my 2nd graders need to see. They've been stuck in a world of "sames" and are not learning to respect and honor the differences around them!

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### **Maria says**

The Change Your Name Store would be a great way to show students that they are who they are. They cannot change who they are because they will not find a place where they fit in better. It could lead students into writing about what they love about their lives.

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### **Nancy M. Hayes says**

This book is like comfort food - spirited, warm and nourishing. When my grandchildren and other small visitors and I read it together, we smile and understand. The Change Your Name Store offers endless possibilities for conversation about the world. Thank you and hugs Leanne.

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### **Katie Logonauts says**

This Seuss-inspired rhyming story follows the journey of young Wilma Lee Wu as she contemplates changing her name. I appreciate how the story draws connections to names and cultures and that it includes a wide variety of diverse names in the illustrations, but I wish there had been a little bit more to this story. A brief end note about names, meanings, and countries of origin would really have made this a more useful resource for a class discussion instead of just a cute idea.

Reviewed: <http://www.thelogonauts.com/2015/01/IMWAYR2.html>

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### **Joy Blaser says**

Wilma Lee Wu likes many things. She likes to read. She likes puzzles. She likes to cook. She even likes to pester her brother. One thing she does not like: her name. It's too boring. She sets off on a mission—to find The Change Your Name Store.

Once there, Ms. Zeena McFouz, the store's proprietor, helps her find many lovely new names. She tries several on for size. She soon discovers that when you take a new name, you must also take the culture of that name. When she chooses Dominga Delfino, she lands in Belize; adopting Nuru N'zinga drops her in Kenya. Which will Wilma choose?

There are several things that struck me upon reading *The Change Your Name Store*. I enjoyed the ethnic diversity portrayed throughout the story. I loved the variety of names sprinkled across each page. Each list or wall littered with names included not only common Caucasian names like Jennifer and Michael, but Ishmael, Sadiq, Olga, Ashanti, Demetrius, Dao, and even names in Chinese and Arabic characters. \*love\* The embrace of many ethnicities and cultures is the true gem found here. That the rhyming text flows beautifully and the whimsical illustration makes you smile is simply icing on the cake.

From the review I posted at [TheBookChildren.com](http://TheBookChildren.com).

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