

Name: _____ Date: _____

What YOUR Name Means

Directions: After reading "What My Name Means" by Jennifer Dignan, complete the activity "Analyzing Poetry." Then follow the directions below to write your own "What My Name Means" poem—about yourself!

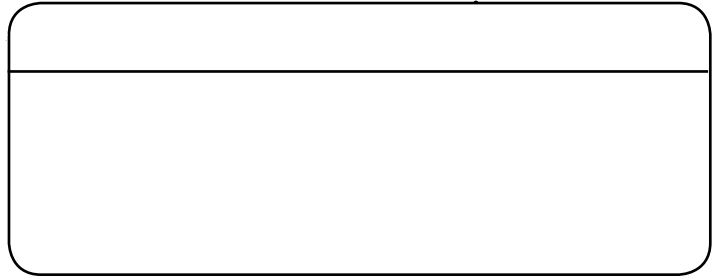
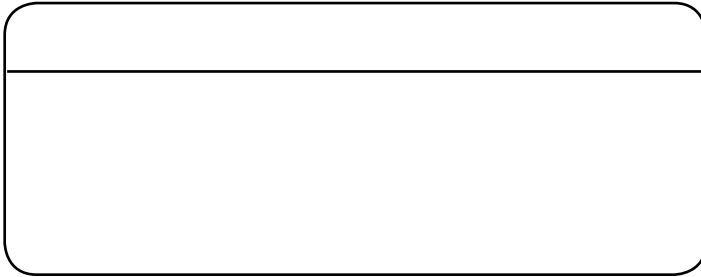
1 At the top of each box, write a person you will mention in your poem. You can use people's actual names or identify them the way Dignan does: "my mom," "my neighbor," etc. Under each person's name, brainstorm ideas of how he or she might identify you—what that person might think your name "means."

family members

a close friend

teachers or coaches

people who know you, but not that well




2 Now think about the things that other people don't know about you. Use the labels on the boxes to help you brainstorm ideas. There is also a box for you to write ideas that don't fit into any of the other boxes.


goals and dreams



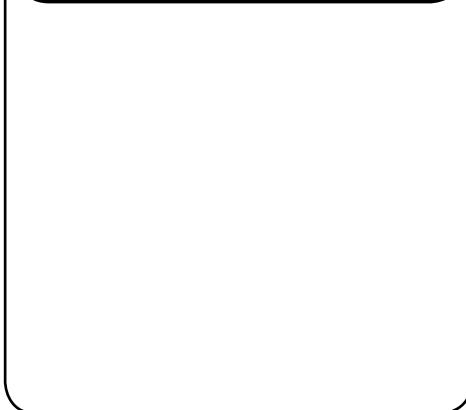
things that you deeply care a
lot about



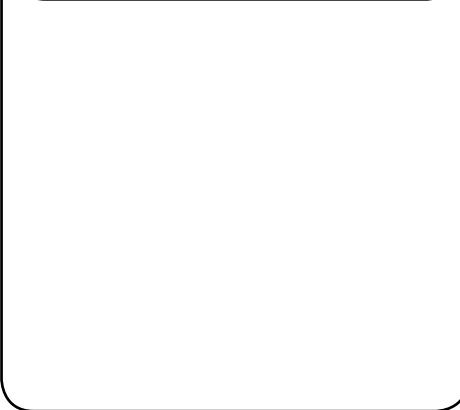
fears and worries about
yourself or your life



things that make you happy



other ideas



3 Look back at what you brainstormed on pages 1 and 2. In each box, highlight or circle the ideas that you like best. (If you think of anything to add to the boxes while you're doing this, go ahead and add it!)

4 Now it's time to write the first draft of your poem. Use Jennifer Dignan's poem "What My Name Means" as a model to write your own "What My Name Means" poem—about what YOUR name means.

Write your poem on your own piece of paper. Be sure to

- say what eight different people, plus yourself, think your name means.
- start your idea for each of the eight people with "_____ thinks my name means." (Fill in the blank with the person's name.)
- include the lines "I think / there's some stuff that they left out, like" before you tell what you think your name means.

5 After you finish your first draft, read it through, paying attention to the way it sounds. Does it flow like a good song? If not, can you make the rhythm more pleasing? Sometimes a little change, like switching the places of a few words, can make a big difference.

Most important of all, ask yourself, "Would someone reading this poem get an idea of who I am? Would he or she get an idea of what is special about me?" If not, what can you change to make your poem more personal?

6 Once your poem is finished, decorate it with doodles the way Dignan's poem is decorated on page 32 of the September issue of *Scope*. Your doodles, like the ones in *Scope*, should reflect ideas and images in the poem.