

Book Title: Yefferson, Actually

Author: Katherine Trejo & Scott Martin-Rowe

Introduction

Begin by asking students:

- Have you ever heard someone butcher a word, say it completely wrong?
- How about your name, has anyone ever said your name wrong?

This is a story about a boy who finds the courage to share his name, correctly, with his new school.

Reading and Discussion

Since this book is written in both English and Spanish, it might be nice to have a student or parent read the Spanish along with you.

Introduce vocabulary: surgeon, photosynthesis

Possible discussion questions:

- How does the teacher introduce Yefferson?
- What do the kids in his class call him? How does it make him feel?
- What does Yefferson plan to do when they say his name wrong?
- How does Yefferson feel when they call him the right name?
- How does having a plan help Yefferson have the courage to stand up for what he knows is right?

Activity:

Role Play Courage Scenarios

Create scenario cards to hand out to small groups of students, such as:

- Someone keeps mispronouncing a classmate's name, even after being corrected.
- A student sees another being left out at recess.
- A friend is afraid to share their answer in class because they might get it wrong.
- A student notices someone being treated unfairly during a group activity.
- A student hears others using inappropriate words on the bus ride home.
- A peer offers illegal substances to a student

Each group discusses and acts out a way to respond with courage and kindness, like Yefferson did.