

The
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Issue

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The Power of Names, The Power of Love



“What's in a name? That which we call a **rose**,
by any other name would smell as sweet.”



-William Shakespeare

Do you know this quote? It is from a very famous play by **William Shakespeare**. The quote is wondering about the power names have in what something is. A rose would be just as beautiful if we used a different word. In fact, the play is named for the main characters, **Romeo and Juliet**. I wonder if their sad story would have been happy if their family names were not **Montague** and **Capulet**? Let's look at different naming traditions around the world and what they might mean!



Middle Names & Heritage Names

In English-speaking countries, most people have three names: a **first/given name**, a **middle name**, and a **last/family name**. Many people's middle names reflect their **cultural roots** or **family background**. It may even come from another language! For example, my middle name is from an **endearment** in **Irish**. It means “my darling little one.” Miss Crystal's middle name means “lei of love” in **Hawaiian**. Our past ALT from **Singapore** had a **Chinese name** as well as her English name, June. The Korean-American K-Pop star and rapper, Jay Park's, **Korean name** is 박재범. Traditional **Jewish** or **Muslim** families may use **Hebrew** or **Arabic** names.

Family Names & Hyphenated Names

Our last ALT was named Ángel and he was from **Venezuela**. Did you know that ángel is **Spanish** for angel? In **Latin and Central America**, many people have **two family names**! The first family name is from the father's side of the family and the second is from the mother's. Family names like McDonald from **Scotland** means “son of Donald.” Other old family names in **Britain** come from a person's job like Baker or



Smith for blacksmith. The **Swedish** name Andersson means “son of Anders.” The other **Nordic countries** use a similar pattern. In **Japan**, many names come from where a family used to live, like 川 (river) and 山 (mountain).

Some people choose to mix their family names when they get married. For example, if Alex Taylor marries Jordan Jones then their new family name could be Taylor-Jones or Jones-Taylor. This is a **hyphenated name**.

Stage Names, Pen Names & Chosen Names

Do you know the famous musician Elton John, singer Lady Gaga, or Freddie Mercury from the band Queen? How about the author of ***Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland***, Lewis Carroll? All these people chose a new name for themselves for their art. Performers choose a **stage name** and writers choose a **pen name**.

Many **LGBTQ+** people choose a new name for themselves. They might think that their **old name** did not fit them. We should respect their choice and never use their **dead name**. For example, this famous **Canadian** actor just ‘**came out**’ as **transgender** with the chosen first name Elliot. Do you know Elliot Page?



There are other times when people might choose their own names. Some **Black Americans** choose names with **African roots** instead of European ones because of the history of slavery.

Titles & Earned Names

Do you know Kate Middleton and Meghan Markle? They both joined the **British Royal Family** and received new **titles**. Kate became Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge when she married Prince William. Kate is a **nickname** for Catherine! Meghan became Meghan, Duchess of Sussex when she married Prince Harry. The **Emperor of Japan** has a title too!

For some **Native Americans**, **tribal names** are chosen when children are older, to match their personalities. Then, new names might be given if a person accomplishes something special during their life. We might call these **earned names**.

So, names can have different rules and different meanings for different people at different times. This means that you can decide what a name means to you too! **However, it is always important to respect others and what they wish to be called.** This shows that you respect and value them for who they are. After all, names are often a sign of **love**; for family, heritage, and even oneself!

Happy Valentine’s Day!

**XOXO,
Sheila**



All kinds of love- LGBTQ+

What does it all mean?

With Valentine's Day this month, I wanted to talk about all sorts of love in the **LGBTQ+ community**. LGBTQ+ stands for: **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer**. The plus sign represents the many other identities that don't fit into the acronym.



Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual

These three words are all about what **gender** people fall in love with. If you are a woman who loves other women, that is called '**Lesbian**'. If you are a man who loves other men, that is called '**Gay**'. If you can love both men and women, that is called '**Bisexual**'. The 'Bi' part of the word means two, just like in the word Bicycle, a vehicle with two wheels.



In the past in Australia, **Valentine's Day** was all about men giving presents to their girlfriends, or to girls they liked. Now, Valentine's is about everyone. Anyone can give someone a present, no matter what their gender is. Some people also give presents to their friends, as a form of **platonic**, or **friendly love**.



A big moment in LGBTQ+ history for Australia happened in 2017. Every adult was sent a survey in the mail, where they could vote on whether or not **same-sex marriage** should be **legal**. The **yes** votes won, and in December, the government made it legal to marry who you loved, no matter what their gender was. People were very happy about this, and celebrated with the phrase: **Love wins!**



Transgender:

Some people grow up feeling that they have been born into the wrong body. Someone might have been born as a woman but know in their heart that they are a man, for example. This is called being **Transgender**. Not every transgender person is the same. Some might only dress more like the gender they really are, or they might change their name but not their appearance. Some people will change their name, appearance, and body through surgery and medicine to become the person they feel like on the inside.



Like Sheila Sensei said, **names** can be important for Transgender people. Picking a name or **pronoun** for yourself can be very **empowering**. Pronouns are words like 'he,' 'she,' and 'they,' that other people use to talk to or about you. By remembering the name or pronouns that a person chooses to use, you can show that you love and care about them.

Queer +:

Queer is a word that can refer to all people in the LGBTQ+ community. Some people don't want to tell strangers personal information, and some people aren't quite sure what **label** fits them best. Sometimes people might also like to talk about a whole group of LGBTQ+ people, who might not all **identify** the same way. In those cases, people might use the word '**Queer**'.



The plus in LGBTQ+ represents many other ways people identify themselves. A few examples are **asexual** and **aromantic, non-binary**, and **ally**. Most aromantic people don't feel **romantic love**, and can be happy not dating anyone. But, they still have lots of love to give to family and friends! Non-binary people don't feel quite right calling themselves a man or a woman, and might choose to use the '**they**' **pronoun** to show this. But of course, their friends and family love them all the same.

Even if you are not in the **LGBTQ+ spectrum**, you can still support it. One of the A's in the plus stands for **ally**. As long as you believe everyone should be treated equal, no matter how they identify, anyone can be an ally!



XOXO,
Erin