

nickel, dime, quarter ... do you have brothers at home named dollar and bill?

Penny Kittle

penny

why did my parents name me Penny?

weird word

Mom says dad wanted to name me Molly but she thought that sounded like a barmaid, so she said no. But what were the other choices?

Somebody she knew was named Penny so she chose it. ^{prime} Penny - bleh. ^{why can't kids choose their own names?} sounds like a dog actually. when I was little I told her no one had a name like Penny so she found me a book with a main character named Penny, but she hadn't read it - the character was a boy.

I remember the blue cover of that book it

^{was such a truly traumatic} I was furious. Now I know my stupid parents had named me a boy name - a dog's name! and I was marked for life.

I can't remember when I started liking my name. or accepting it.

I could write

what's in a name?
Do names matter?

How does one recover from a stupid name?

about some of the interesting names I've seen in teaching - Brian Himself ...



born June 13, 1991. Cincinnati, OH

DO children ever know how loved they are?
Hannah, age 11



we sat at a restaurant somewhere in Cincinnati finally deciding ... my belly bumped the table as we ate in this crowded space ... you would arrive soon.

what to call you? I wanted the sounds of Chloe-Kittle, but your dad did not. we settled on Hannah - my grandmother was Anna - and Lynne for Aunt Lynne ... but we

Naming the Baby

by Faith Shearin

never imagined red curls. It all fit, though. Not... Hannah.

there were off-limits names from students I'd had. Some I just had so often & I didn't want ordinary & others just reminded me of the sad stories those students carried or the kids who drove me crazy.

When you are dreaming of the name you are also dreaming of who they might be. They are invented in darkness — under cloak of skin — and, for the better part of a year, are a swelling or a set of symptoms. The name books are like a box of chocolates and when you open them you see how many kinds there really are. There are names of people you have known and disliked and names that make the wrong sounds and names that suggest your child will be like everyone else's. There are names that turn your child into a character in a novel and names that recall the time when your great grandmother was young. Naming the baby is a way of dreaming about a creature who is almost but not quite. It is a way of imagining the soul of a person you are making but have not made. The name is the first way you see the baby: their title, the syllables that conjure a shape from the lantern.

Laura sent us a book of household names that could be kids' names... toast, liver, dust, divan, armoire... spatula. we read & laughed & imagined ...

I asked the doctor to tell me if you were a girl so I kept asking. "Are you sure?" because I wanted a girl so badly. I imagined all of the ways I could make you strong or I might raise you the way I might raise you to confidence & joy ... while I also held you close.

Hannah
Lynne
Kittle