



## Found-Letter Nameplates

Letter recognition is fun when kids hunt for the special combination to make their names.

### Before You Start

- 1 Precut the 3- by 9-inch construction paper strips in assorted colors.
- 2 Make the project with your own name and display it as a model for children.
- 3 Print each child's name on a large index card to serve as a reference for the child when making the project.

### Introducing the Project

Display an alphabet chart. Then write children's names on the chalkboard one at a time. Each time, ask the child with that name to point to and name each letter in his or her name and then find that letter on an alphabet chart. Afterward, show children the model of your nameplate, explaining that the letters were cut out of magazines and newspapers. Tell children that they will make their own nameplates using letter cutouts.

### Making the Project

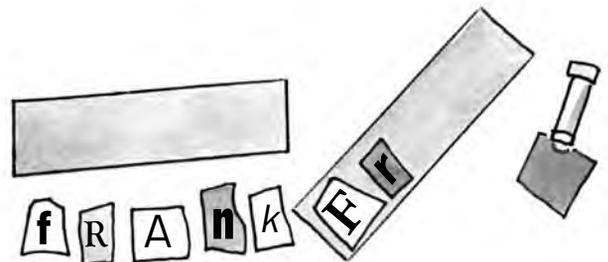
- 1 Divide the class into small groups. Give children the printed example of their first name to help with letter identification. Then have them search magazines and newspapers to find at least two examples of each letter in their name. Encourage them to look for large letters to cut out—they can be uppercase or lowercase.
- 2 Have children arrange their letter cutouts to spell out their name twice. Ask them to choose two 3- by 9-inch construction-paper strips in the color of their choice. Then have them glue a set of letters to each strip to spell their name. Invite children to embellish the name strips with additional decorations using the color markers, colored pencils, and crayons.

### Materials

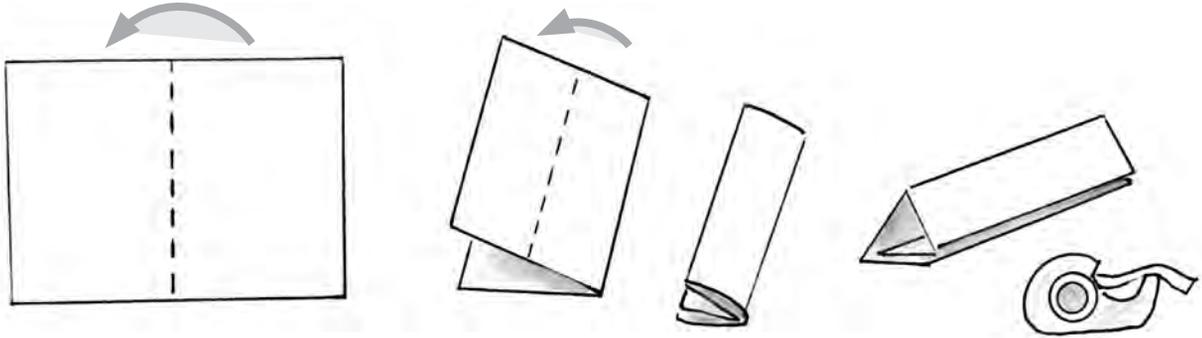
- old magazine and newspapers showing large headline fonts
- scissors
- 3- by 9-inch construction paper strips in assorted colors
- glue sticks or white glue
- an assortment of color markers, colored pencils, and crayons
- 9- by 12-inch sheet of tagboard
- tape



*Work with children in groups of four or fewer to do this project.*



- 3 Give each child a 9- by 12-inch sheet of tagboard. Help them fold the tagboard in half twice, lengthwise, and then unfold it to reveal three parallel fold lines. Have them bend all the folds in the same direction and then overlap and tape the two end sections together to make the base for a pyramid-shaped nameplate.



## Book Links

### **Chrysanthemum**

by Kevin Henkes  
(HarperTrophy, 1996)

*Chrysanthemum begins to wither when others make fun of her name. But with the help of her music teacher, Chrysanthemum's pride blossoms once again.*

### **Tikki Tikki Tembo**

by Arlene Mosel  
(Henry Holt, 1988)

*A folktale about how the Chinese shortened their children's names after a boy with a long, difficult name falls into a well.*

### **Day of Ahmed's Secret**

by Florence H. Parry  
(HarperTrophy, 1995)

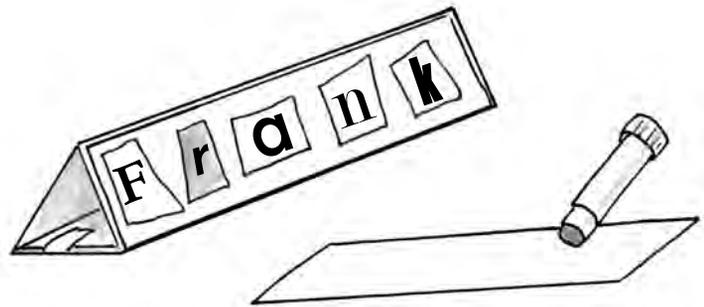
*As young Ahmed completes his duties, his eagerness to share a special secret with his family grows—he can write his name in Arabic!*

### **The First Thing My Mama Told Me**

by Susan Marie Swanson  
(Harcourt, 2002)

*Seven-year-old Lucy is secure in her special place in the world as she remembers how her family has celebrated her name.*

- 4 Have children glue one of their name strips to each side of the nameplate.



## Using the Project

Discuss the letters children used to make their nameplates. Encourage them to describe and compare details they notice about the letters. Finally, invite children to display their nameplate on their desk or table during whole-class or group activities to serve as reminders of their name and its spelling.