



WHAT'S IN A NAME?



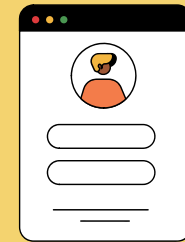
Pre Show Activity for Instant



OVERVIEW



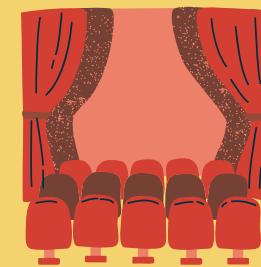
Topic: What's in a Name



Activity: Artistic Names



Discussion



Before the Show: All About Instant

NOM DE PLUME

- "Nom de Plume" or "Pen Name" refers to a professional name authors or creative people use to represent themselves. It is distinct from their given name.
- Functions include concealing the author's identity, gender, religious or political affiliation.
- Alterations also help differentiate from colleagues with similar names. For example, adding an initial.
- In some cases, multiple authors can write under one pen name. This is a form of "ghostwriting," the act of writing for someone else who is the named author.



THE POWER OF CHOICE

- A Nome de Plume is often seen as an artistic decision, but name changes can also be a part of dark moments in history.
- Context includes social, political, and cultural circumstances, where minority groups were robbed of their identity by an oppressor.
- Example: The assimilation of indigenous peoples through the residential school system.



CONTEMPORARY EXAMPLES

- Pedro Pascal, Actor
 - Briefly went by Alexander because he thought an Americanized name would get him more film and television work. Also started using his mother's last name in tribute to her after she passed away
- J.K Rowling, Author
 - Wrote the Harry Potter series under her pen name for fear she wouldn't be published as a woman, second series under a pseudonym with hopes of gaining a new audience



TERMINOLOGY

- **Nom de Plume (FR)/Pen Name (ENG)**
 - an assumed name used by a writer instead of their real name.
- **Ghostwriter**
 - writes material for someone else who is the named author.
- **Stage Name**
 - a name assumed for professional purposes by an actor or other performer
- **Alias**
 - a false or assumed identity
- **Pseudonym**
 - a fictitious name, especially one used by an author.



DISCUSSION

What's in a name? Why does it matter?
You might consider the following as a part
of your dialogue...

- Do you think names shape your personality? Why?
- How easy or difficult is it for someone in this province to change their name?
- What factors should parents consider in choosing names for their children?



Artistic Names



Research

Discover a figure who uses a public-facing name that differs from their given one. Who are they? What do they do?

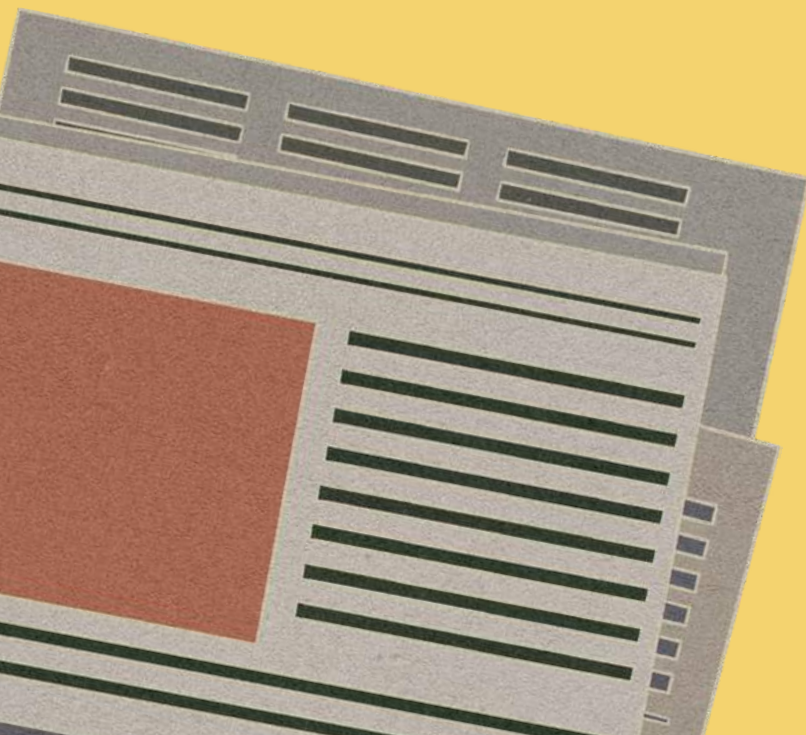
Reflect

What makes their public persona different than who they are in private, or who they were before the change? What informed their decision?



Present

Share your findings with the class



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

- “Names carry the details for the infinite, ever-changing story of identity.” –Zainib Al-Jayashi
- Identity includes how we represent ourselves in the eyes of others
- Consider social media as the everyman's pen name; how do we curate our public image?





BEFORE THE SHOW





INSTANT BY ERIN SHIELDS

Synopsis

In *Instant*, three teens find out how far they'll go in their quest to be seen and heard. Meredith is a singer-songwriter who makes YouTube videos of covers in an attempt to gain Internet fame. But her friend Jay, a rising hockey star, can't understand why she won't post her original songs. When their classmate Rosie suddenly goes viral after a video is posted of her singing to raise money for her father's medical bills, Meredith's jealousy takes over and she pushes Rosie too far, triggering a near-deadly response.

About the Characters



Jay

15 years old, grade 10,
passionate about hockey,
wants to get recruited to the
QMJHL and eventually play in
the NHL.



Rosie

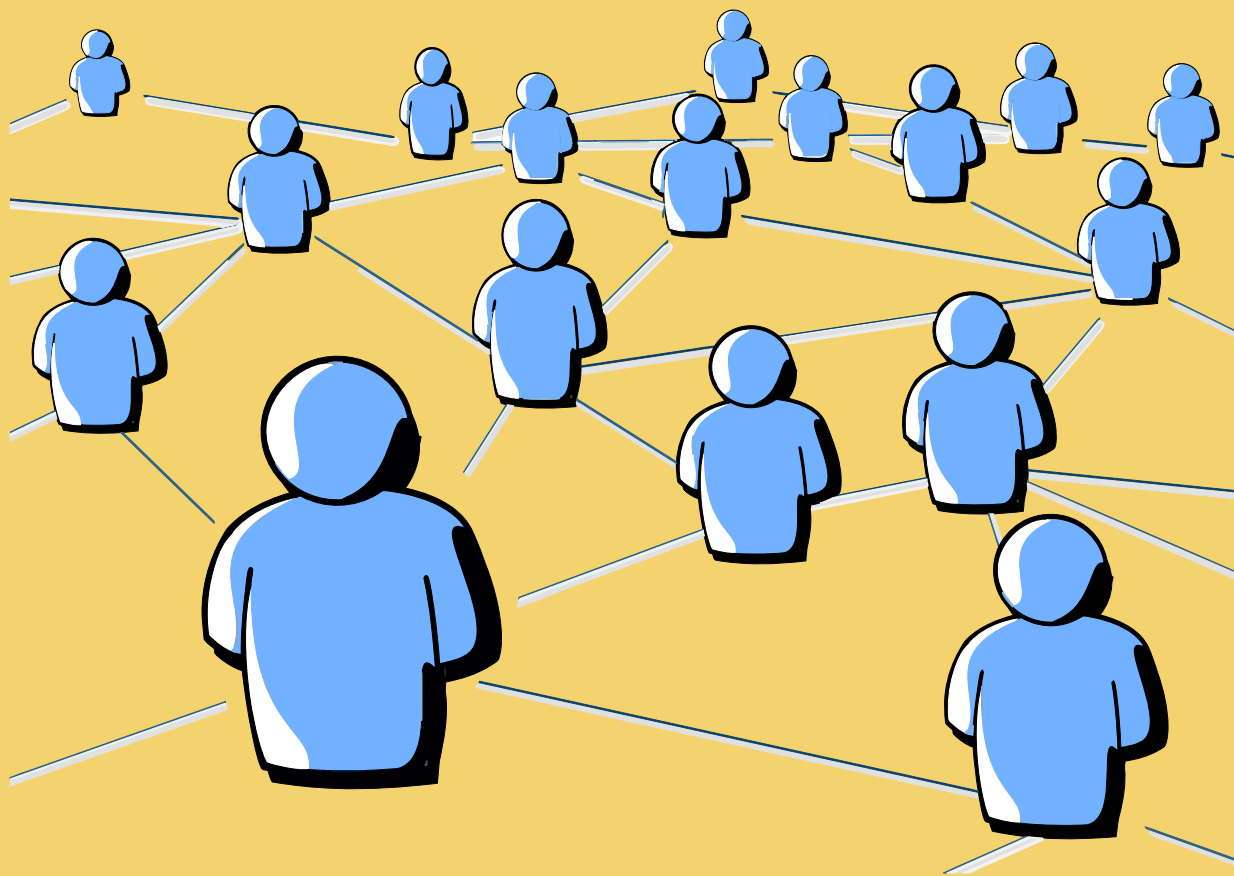
15 years old, grade 10, trying to
help her dad who has multiple
sclerosis (MS), quiet, shy, would
love to be more popular



Meredith

15 years old, grade 10,
passionate about music, wants
to be a pop star.

CONSIDER



- What's in a name? Who are Jay, Meredith and Rosie online versus at school?
- How do the characters create their online image or persona?
- What is the power of anonymity on social media?

AUDIENCE EXPECTATIONS



- Feel free to clap or laugh when you are impressed or amused; it helps the actors know you are listening to the performance.
- Stay in your seat, have your phone put away, and do not chat with your friends during the performance, as it is distracting for the actors and the people around you.
- Do not address the actors during the performance. There will be a "talkback" afterwards for questions and comments about the show.
- Performing in a play is similar to an important class presentation; it involves a lot of preparation and vulnerability. Remember to be kind!

Enjoy the show!
Bonne spectacle!

