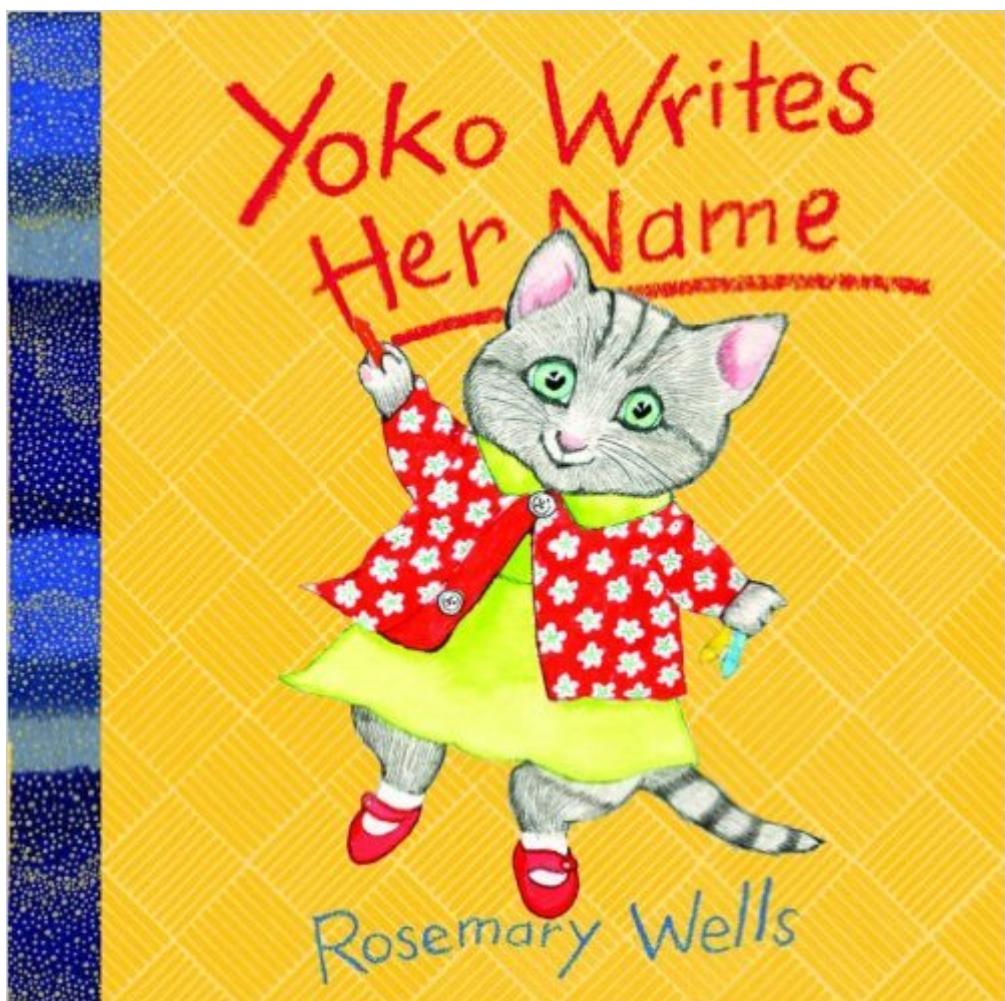


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# Yoko Writes Her Name



## **Synopsis**

Yoko is so excited for the first day of school. She's just learned to write her name. But when Mrs. Jenkins asks Yoko to show everyone, Olive and Sylvia make fun of her Japanese writing. "Yoko can't write. She's only scribbling!" The teasing continues as Yoko shares her favorite book at show and tell, and reads it back to front. That evening, Yoko declares that she can't go back to school. "How can I when my reading and writing are a failure?" she asks. Luckily a little wisdom from her Mama, a little cooperation from Mrs. Jenkins, and a lot of enthusiasm from her classmates teach Yoko the most important lesson of the year: that friendship can bridge cultural differences. Not only does Yoko learn to read and write in English and graduate Kindergarten with her classmates, but everyone's name appears in two languages on their diploma--even Olive's and Sylvia's!

## **Book Information**

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Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 9.1 x 0.4 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (11 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

My 3-year-old, who has some linguistic and ethnic difference issues to deal with herself, loves these books, appears to understand them and asks for them again and again. I have one criticism on this book. The book shows Japanese characters but not very clearly and doesn't do much to help a child see them as a writing system just like ABCs. The graphics on that could be better.

A fun book about a bi-lingual child adjusting to life at school. My daughter is half-Japanese and could relate very well to Yoko's struggle to fit in, accepting her Japanese heritage and sharing it with others. I also used it in my classroom and the children enjoyed it, and we used it to discuss how all

of the students are different. Highly recommended,

Yoko Writes Her Name, written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells, tells a story familiar to many, how difficult it is to be the new kid on the block, the new student in the school, or worse yet a student who can speak English, but doesn't know how to write it. Competitive first graders play "Graduation" on the playground on her first day, where everyone but Yoko graduates. The story weaves a tale of pain and awareness as cultural traditions are learned and shared. Each page features a framed illustration depicting events and emotions. Instead of page numbers illustrations of a word, spelled in English are one page, with the Japanese spelling on the facing page. This is a delightful tale of what it means to be a newcomer, who with the help of parents, teachers and classmates learns how to write a new language, English, while sharing with others the way to write in Japanese. Children 5-9, as well as teachers and adults will find it both entertaining and instructive.

I am a retired teacher, who now teaches Japanese children to speak English. YOKO WRITES HER NAME is a wonderful book to use with Japanese students, especially the younger ones. It has common words on the corner of each page in both English and Japanese, which helps the teacher and students learn some Japanese, while teaching English. The story line shows how Yoko is accepted into her class by all the students first by Yoko teaching them how to write their names in Japanese. Subsequently, the class ends up learning Japanese as a second language. What a wonderful way to make a foreign child feel important and special.

This is a very cute picture book. If you speak more than one language and you try to teach your kids another language, this is a good book to read. My kids are proud that they can recognize the Japanese Hiragana letters on the pages.

Yoko was a Japanese kitty cat and was very pleased with her efforts to write her name. "I am so proud, my little snow flower!" said Yoko's mother. When she got to school there were all kinds of different little animal children who were learning to write their names. Mrs. Jenkins thought that Yoko did a beautiful job with her name, but Sylvia and Olive thought her writing was nothing but scribbles. That kind of meanness would make any little girl want to cry! Even when Yoko demonstrated her numbers on the blackboard, the girls still made fun of her, claiming she wouldn't graduate school at all. "Those aren't numbers. Those are just baby marks!" Things just seemed to

go from bad to worse until Angelo said she had a secret language and wanted to learn it. Then things started to turn around when all the children suddenly wanted to learn their names in Japanese. Yoko might graduate after all. This is a charming story that accentuates the fact that 'differences' aren't necessarily a bad thing. On the upper corner of the right-hand page there is a small illustration and an English word below it. On the opposite page, there is its Japanese equivalent. This is a perfect classroom read aloud and discuss book. Can any of you write the word 'hand' in both English and Japanese?

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