

## ABOUT

### *the Authors*

**KAREN LYNN WILLIAMS** has written several books about the difficult lives of children around the world, including *Galimoto* (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard), *Tap-Tap* (Clarion), and *Circles of Hope* (Eerdmans). Karen has lived in Haiti and Malawi, and currently lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**KHADRA MOHAMMED** is the executive director of the Pittsburgh Refugee Center and has worked with refugees both in the U.S. and abroad for more than twenty years. She and Karen Lynn Williams previously collaborated on *Four Feet, Two Sandals* (Eerdmans). She lives in Pittsburgh.

### *the Illustrator*

**CATHERINE STOCK** is the author and illustrator of *Where Are You Going, Manyoni?* (Morrow) and *Gugu's House* (Clarion). She has illustrated numerous other books, including Karen Lynn Williams's *Galimoto* and the *Gus and Grandpa* series of books by Claudia Mills. She lives in New York and France.

## MY NAME IS SANGOEL

Written by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed  
Illustrated by Catherine Stock

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-8028-5307-3 ❖ \$17.00  
8½" x 11" ❖ 32 pages ❖ Ages 6-10

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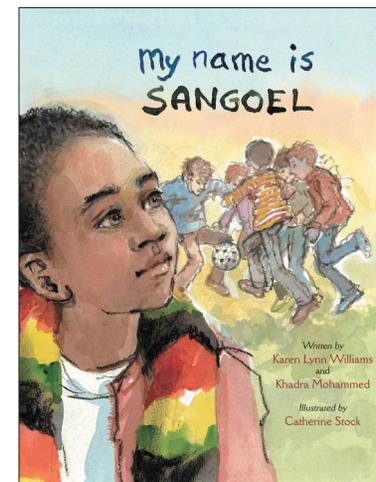
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If you have any suggestions for using *My Name Is Sangoel* with young readers, we would be happy to hear from you.

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## MY NAME IS SANGOEL

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*The old man hugged him, and Sangoel could feel the bones in his thin arms.  
"Remember you will always be a Dinka.  
You will be Sangoel. Even in America."*

### THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Tradition / heritage
- ❖ Importance of names
- ❖ Loss / loneliness
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ African Cultures — Sudanese
- ❖ Refugees
- ❖ Self-identity
- ❖ Moving to a new home

## VOCABULARY

Look up the following terms in a reference book: refugee, Dinka, ancestors, persecution.



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE READING THE BOOK

1. Are there any refugees in your school or community? Where do they come from? How can you help to make them feel more comfortable in their new home?

2. It is important to know who you are and where you come from and what your family traditions are. Your name is an important part of who you are. Ask your family how you got your name. Are you named for someone special? What are some of the other things that make you who you are? What are your talents and dreams and favorite activities?

3. Find Sudan and Kenya on a map. What is the geography like in these countries? Describe the climate. Use an encyclopedia to help you.

4. Using library or online resources, read about the culture of Sudan. What foods do people eat, how do they dress, and what are their homes and schools and places of worship like? How has war changed these things in Sudan?

5. Have you lost someone who was important to you or something that was special to you?

What did you do to help yourself feel better? How did others help you?

6. Have you had to move to a new home? What was that like? What did you like about the move? What were the difficult things about moving to a new home? Did people make you feel welcome in your new home? How?



## QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. Sangoel must be the man in the family after his father dies. What kind of things does he do to help his family?

2. Why do you think Lili cries when the TV is turned on and again when it is turned off?

3. What do you think it means when it says in the book, “The sky boat took them to America”?

4. How does Sangoel feel when people pronounce his name wrong? Why is his name so important to him?

5. Why is Mama afraid to cross the street?

6. Why do Sangoel and his family need to learn to eat with a fork?

7. How does Sangoel solve the problem about pronouncing his name? Is this a good solution? Are there other ways he could have solved this problem? Do you think Sangoel will begin to make friends in the United States?

## ACTIVITIES

1. Look at the pictures in the book. The artist has used some collage to make the pictures interesting. What is a collage? Can you find the places where there are cut-out pictures used in the book instead of paints? Try making a collage of something important in your life.

2. Sangoel uses a rebus to show people how to say his name. What is a rebus? Can you make a rebus for your name or for other names or words?

3. Charades is a guessing game in which you must show what a thing is by using actions instead of words. Can you represent your name in actions? Or try showing other words or ideas with actions.

4. Sangoel solves a problem about how to pronounce his name. Write a short story about a time you solved a problem.



## PRaise FOR

### *My Name is Sangoel*

- ❖ Junior Library Guild Selection
- ❖ *Smithsonian Magazine* Notable Books for Children 2009
- ❖ Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2010

"An excellent addition to the growing body of immigration stories for young readers." — *School Library Journal*