**Why Couldn’t I Have Been Named Ashley?**

**Directions:** Over the course of three days, you are expected to read the short story “Why Couldn’t I Have Been Named Ashley?” and complete the choice board below.

**Day 1:** Read the text, “Why Couldn’t I Have Been Named Ashley?” While reading underline words used to describe the main character’s thoughts and feelings (at least 4). Next, number the 5 significant plot events in chronological order (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). Afterwards, place a star (★) next to the climax (turning point/most exciting part) this should be one of the events you’ve already numbered. After reading the entire text, go back and answer the questions that are written on the right side (margin) of your paper. Your answers should be written in complete sentences.

**Day 2:** Select ONE activity from the Vocabulary section AND ONE activity from the Comprehension section of your Choice Board. This should be completed on your own paper!

**Day 3:** Select ONE activity from the Writing section of your Choice board. This can be completed on the same paper you used the day before.

---

**6th Grade ELA Choice Board**  
Choose one activity from each column—vocabulary, writing, & comprehension.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Comprehension</th>
<th>Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Option 1:** Select Three challenging vocabulary words from the text.  
Create a story in the form of a comic strip. In your story, you must include ALL Three of the vocabulary words correctly. Your comic strip should also include illustrations (pictures). (Your comic strip should have at least 4 frames.) | **Option 1:** Create/draw a plot diagram to review the main events of the story. Write one sentence to describe each part of the plot. Be sure to include all of the plot parts—exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.  
**Example:**  
![Plot Diagram](image) | **Option 1:** Write a personal essay explaining the meaning and history behind your own name. In your essay (at least 5 sentences) answer the following questions:  
- What is your full name? Who named you? Why did he/she pick that name for you? Were you named after anyone, if so who?  
- Does your name, or part of it have a special meaning? Explain. What makes your name unique and what does it show about who you are?  
- Then create an illustration that includes your name, as well as pictures and symbols that represent your personality and who you are as a person. |

---
Option 2: Select Three challenging vocabulary words from the text. Write a free verse poem or rap using ALL Three vocabulary words, to show that you know the meaning of the words. Please underline the vocabulary words in your poem/rap! Be creative! Think with emotion! Use humor!

**Example:**

Words, spelling, parts of speech- I have a **proclivity** for vocabulary. I **commiserate** and **assuage**, All whom vocab. makes just so mad. I'm never **circuitous**, With the definitions always **verbatim**, You can ask me day or night!

Option 2: Write an objective summary (5 sentences) for this story. Be sure to include the title, author, and genre. Draw a Somebody, Wants, But, So, Then chart to help you when writing your summary.

**Example:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somebody</th>
<th>Main Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wanted</td>
<td>What does the main character want?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But</td>
<td>What is the problem?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So</td>
<td>How does the character try to solve the problem?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Then</td>
<td>Outcome/ lesson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Claim: The theme of “Why Couldn’t I Have Been Named Ashley?”

Evidence: Two pieces of evidence from the text that supports the theme you chose.

Explanation: Explain/ Show how the evidence you selected best supports the theme.

Option 3: Select Three challenging vocabulary words from the text. Write a dialogue between two people using ALL Three vocabulary words. Make sure you include a dialogue tag (try to use words other than said). Punctuate the sentences correctly. Remember that each time a new person speaks, it is a new paragraph and must be indented. Underline the vocabulary words.

**Example:**

“Put your coat on,” reminded Mom. “I don’t think it is too **frigid** out,” Joe replied.

Option 3: Create a Story Pyramid to summarize the main events.

1. Top line: one word for the main character (their name)
2. Second line: two words to describe the main character (character traits)
3. Third line: three words to describe the setting
4. Fourth line: four words that state the main problem/conflict
5. Fifth line: five words to describe the first main event in the story
6. Sixth line: six words to describe the second main event in the story
7. Seventh line: seven words to describe the third main event in the story
8. Eighth line: eight words that state the solution/resolution

**Example:**

Katriiss
strong female
districts and Capitol
fighting for her life
must win the Hunger Games
she must decide who she loves
no one can know her real feelings
winning the games frees herself not her heart

Option 3: Free Write (5 sentences) Respond to the writing prompt below. Be sure to answer the entire question. Your response should be a minimum of five sentences.

If you could change your name, what would you change it to? Would a different name make you feel different about yourself? Explain why.

Then create an illustration that includes your name (or the name you would choose for yourself), as well as pictures and symbols that represent your personality and who you are as a person.

**Example:**

**PUT “SAID” TO BED**

---

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: THIS IS NOT A REQUIREMENT!** If you would like to complete an additional activity you can do the following: On a sheet of paper, create an Instagram post that represents the main character. Don’t forget to include a username, friends who like the photo and a caption complete with #hashtags. When you are finished write a brief paragraph using text evidence from the story to explain your representation.
**Why Couldn’t I have Been Named Ashley?**

By Imma Achilikwe

1. "Ashley!" exclaimed Mrs. Renfro, and simultaneously three heads whipped around at attention towards the perturbed teacher. At the same time, all three Ashleys proudly replied, "Yes, ma’am?"

   *Note: simultaneously means at the same time and perturbed means the teacher was not happy*

2. When I was a fourth grader, I remember sitting in class that day just before the bell rang for dismissal. I remember thinking of all the names in the world, how I could have possibly been stuck with such an alien one. I thought about all the popular kids in the class. I figured that I wasn't popular because of my weird name. I put some things together in my mind and came up with a plausible equation: COOL NAME = POPULARITY. The dismissal bell rang. As I mechanically walked out to catch my ride, I thought to myself, "Why couldn’t I have been named Ashley?"

   *Think About: The narrator thinks her name is weird. It makes her feel different from the rest of the class. Have you felt that way?*

3. I was born, on July 7th, 1986, at Parkland Hospital of Dallas, Texas. I was the first American-born Nigerian in both of my parents' families. I was my parents' first joy, and in their joy, they gave me the name that would haunt me for the rest of my life, Immaculeta Uzoma Achilikwe.

4. The first time I actually became aware of my name was on the first day of first grade. I went to school loaded with all my school supplies and excited to see all of my old kindergarten friends. I couldn't wait to see who my new teacher was. As I walked into the classroom, all my friends pushed up to me, cooing my name: "Imma, Imma I missed you so much." The teacher walked in with the attendance sheet. She told everyone to quiet down so she could call roll. Before she started, she said something I thought would have never applied to me. She said, "Before I call roll, I apologize if I mispronounce anyone's name." with a very apologetic look on her face. She looked down at the attendance sheet, paused for a minute, and then looked up with an extremely puzzled look on her face. I remember thinking that there was probably some weird name before mine; although, my name was always the first name to be called in kindergarten. Suddenly, my palms started sweating and then she began to hopelessly stutter my name, "Im-Immacule Arch-liki, I mean, Achei..." Here, I interrupted.

   *My ears burned with embarrassment and droplets of perspiration formed on my nose. "Did I say it right?" she said with the same apologetic look on her face. Before I responded, the laughs that the other kids in class had been holding back suddenly exploded, like a volatile vial of glycerin, into peals of laughter. One kid thought it was so funny his chubby face started turning red and I could see a tear gradually making its way down his face. I found myself wishing I could sink into the ground and never*
with their names printed on them. You know, the ones they sell in the stores along with name-embossed sharpeners, rulers and pencil pouches. Every year I search through and rummaged around that rack at the store, but I could never find a pencil with my name on it.

7 The summer of my seventh-grade year, my family and I took a vacation to our "home" in Nigeria, where my parents were born. My cousin and I were playing cards, talking girl talk, and relating our most embarrassing moments. Each tried to see whose story could top whose. I told one story of how I wet the bed at a sleepover, and she told me how she had farted in class during a test. That was a hoot. Then, I told her the story of how I was laughed at because of my weird name. I thought it was pretty funny, but she didn't laugh. She had the most serious look on her face, then she asked me,

"Immaculeta Uzoma Achilike, do you know what your name means?" I shook my head at her and that's when she started laughing. I thought she was making fun of me, and as I started to leave she said: 'Immaculeta means 'purity', 'Uzoma means 'the good road' and...".

Note: purity comes from the word pure, which means free from pollution, or not mixed with anything. Do you think Imma's cousin thinks her name is something to be proud of or to feel bad about?

8 Having heard her words, I stopped walking away and turned around in amazement. What does Achilike mean?" I asked. After a long pause she calmly said, "Achilike means 'to rule without force'. I was astonished and pleased. I never knew what my name meant. My name is Immaculeta Uzoma Achilike. I am the daughter of first-generation Nigerian immigrants. I am the daughter of hardworking and brave parents.

Note: astonished means surprised or shocked and pleased means happy

Think About: first-generation Nigerian immigrants means Imma's parents were the first in their family to leave Nigeria so they only had each other

9 My name means "to rule without force." My grandfather was a wealthy man of generous character. When I say my name in Nigeria, people know me as the granddaughter of a wealthy man of generous character. They know me by my name. There my name is not embossed on any pencil or vanity plate. It is etched in the minds of the people.

10 My name is Immaculeta Uzoma Achilike.