



Lesson One: What's in a Name?

Most of us don't know the meaning of our names. Perhaps, it's a name that has been in the family for a long time, or the sound of it appealed to our parents, or it reminded them of someone who had been in the media.

You might want to ask your parent(s) or guardian(s) if there is a story behind the selection of your name.

You might also want to look up www.nunavut.com/nunavut99/english/name.html to understand how Inuit names became anglicized (English sounding) in the 1960s. If the link doesn't work, put some of the following into your search engine: Nunavut 99 – What's in a Name? By Anne Meekitjuk Hanson.

Authors, like parents, select names very carefully. They usually want the name to mean or represent something. Some characters from books become so well known that just the mention of their names stands for a lot in people's minds. For example, what do you think about when the following names are mentioned? Indiana Jones, Harry Potter, Batman, Robin Hood?

We want to select a name for a brave, spirited young Cape Dorset girl whose story will start when she's around seven years old. As she will have adventures in future books, her name has to be suitable until she's 20 years old.

I tentatively picked Antje for the following reasons:

It's the name of an arctic plant: arctic moss champion (Tunturikohokki/silene acualis);

It goes well with Arctic (Antje of the Arctic);

It means "Grace" or "Favour" in Hebrew; and

We need a name that has echoes of Arctic explorers as in future books Antje will want to research where her name came from as she'll hear from stories told by elders that it's from some long forgotten Arctic explorer.

What other names should we consider? I found these on the internet. You search and then MAKE YOUR LIST.

Arnaquq, Aitii or Aiuula of the Arctic (Inuit surnames)

Aasta, Amdis, Amora, Asdis of the Arctic ... Norse names meaning: love, eagle spirit, light eagle, divine spirit (good for a connection to Viking explorers)

Abeni, Abina, Adana, Adila, Alike of the Arctic ...

African names meaning: girl prayed for; born on a Tuesday; her father's daughter, born on a Thursday; most beautiful (good for link to Matthew Henson, an African-American explorer)

Prompts:

List female names as famous as Harry Potter and Batman? Why are you having difficulty?

Would you rather that our heroine has a Viking or an African ancestor? Give two reasons for your choice.

How should we come to a consensus (agree on) the final name?