

The Names: facilitator notes

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Whole-book spoilers. Facilitation notes, not an answer key.

Opening lens

The Names by Florence Knapp branches around a naming choice and follows lives shaped by that difference. Cora's family situation means the choice is not made in an empty space. A useful discussion can hold chance beside coercion instead of crediting every outcome to a single word.

Evidence method

Use three columns for the narrative branches. Note a repeated person or pressure before listing what differs. Refer to the branch name and the stage of life in your edition when locating evidence. A naming choice is the novel's organizing device, not proof that a name determines a real person's future.

Minutes	Task	Book-specific starting point
0-5	Scope and pass option	What expectation did the first naming decision create about the scale of a small choice?
5-15	Opening reaction	Which early pressure made the decision feel less free than it might sound in a synopsis?
15-30	People and relationships	How does a relationship with a sibling or parent take a different shape across two versions? Avoid declaring one whole life the winner.
30-45	Narrative choices	Which repeated detail changes meaning most between versions? Explain the surrounding circumstances that produce the change.
45-55	The ending	What remains recognizable across the closing branches? Does that continuity feel like identity, habit or the persistence of a social force?

Minutes	Task	Book-specific starting point
55-60	One remaining question	Finish with something that changes across branches and something that does not. The pair can keep both agency and constraint in the final conversation.

Group 1 chapter cue

Bring the opening naming scene and identify the surrounding pressure.

Group 2 chapter cue

Choose parallel points in two narrative branches.

Group 3 chapter cue

Use a late branch passage that changes how an earlier similarity reads.

Closing direction

Finish with something that changes across branches and something that does not. The pair can keep both agency and constraint in the final conversation.

Edition and scope note

This guide is for Florence Knapp's *The Names*. Its alternate lives are a fictional structure, not a scientific account of naming effects. Domestic-abuse prompts are optional and never require someone to discuss their own family.

Source

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/768706/the-names-by-florence-knapp/readers-guide/> | *The Names* | Florence Knapp | ISBN 9780593833926