

# My Name is María Isabel

(Grade 4 Theme 4 Selection 1 Summary)

When María Isabel López Salazar moved to a new part of town, the shy fourth grader had to switch schools. As if that wasn't troublesome enough, there were two other girls in her new class also named María. Now her new teacher was calling María Isabel "Mary López" – just to keep things simple.

María Isabel's name was important to her. So when the teacher called out "Mary López," offering a singing part in the upcoming winter play, no wonder María Isabel didn't answer. She didn't realize that was supposed to be her! All because of this misunderstanding, she would miss a chance to fit in. What would she tell her family when they asked why she wasn't in the play? If only she could explain things to her teacher.

Soon everyone was preparing for the play – except María Isabel. She felt disappointed and left out. Then, just before the play, her teacher had the class write an essay titled "My Greatest Wish." After thinking about it, María Isabel wrote that she wanted to sing in the play. She didn't stop there. She also wrote why she wanted to be called by her real name.

The next day, after reading the essays, the teacher called on her. This time, however, she said "María Isabel." María Isabel would be singing in the play after all! The day of the play, her parents watched proudly as María Isabel sang her favorite holiday song.