

# The Birds in Your Name

## A Beginning Project for All Learners

### Purpose

To explore the sounds that make up our names and understand how those sounds shape our identity, memory, and voice.

### Project Overview

Each student will listen to, explore, and represent the phonemes in their name using sound cards, colors, symbols, and stories. The result will be a personalized artifact that can serve as the first entry in a spelling journal, oracle deck, or class sound wall.

### Steps

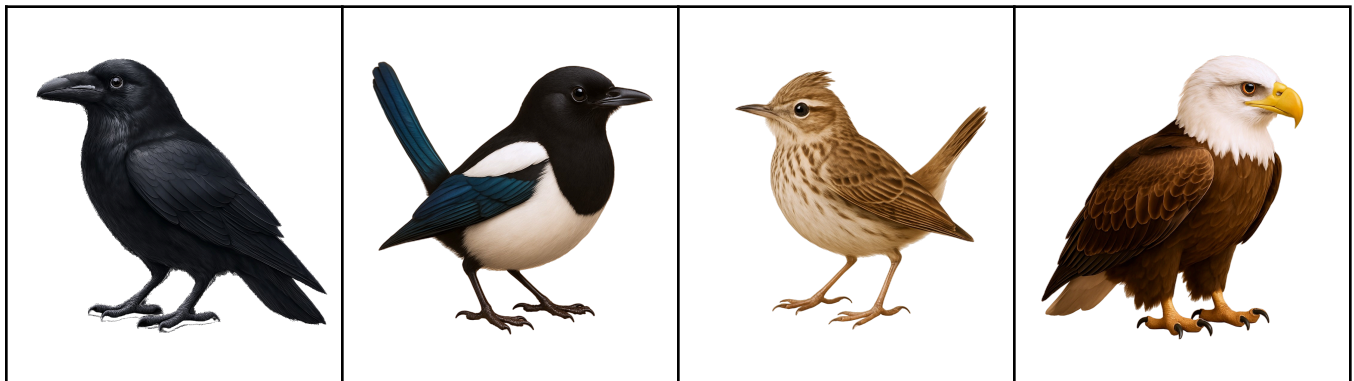
#### 1. Say & Stretch

- 1. Say your name slowly. Break it into separate sounds (phonemes).
- 2. Find the birds in The Alphabet System™ that match those sounds.
- 3. Draw each bird and write the sound it represents.
- 4. Practice saying your name while pointing to each bird.

#### Example:

**Name:** Rylie **Sounds:** /r/ / ī/ /l/ / ē/

**Birds:** Raven, Magpie, Lark, Eagle



#### 2. Find Your Sounds

- - Locate cards or symbols from The Alphabet System that match each phoneme.
- - Optional: Use a phoneme chart to assist.

#### 3. Color & Connect

- - Assign a color or image to each sound in your name.
- - Use paint, pencil, collage, or digital tools.

#### **4. Create a Sound Signature**

- - Choose one format:
  - Mini Name Deck (a card per sound)
  - Sound Flag or Banner
  - Spoken Word or Audio Reflection
  - Illustrated Sound Poem

#### **5. Reflect**

- - Write or record: “What do I hear in my name?”
- - Optional journal prompt: “If my name were a spell, what would it do?”

#### **Extension Ideas**

- Compare your name’s sounds with a classmate’s
- Interview a family member about where your name came from
- Track how your name changes in other languages or accents