

English 3, Level 3 (W220333)

The Namesake, Jhumpa Lahiri

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Throughout *The Namesake*, Jhumpa Lahiri explores the dreams and realities woven into a complex American identity. The novel follows Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli as they immigrate from Calcutta to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they give birth to their son, Gogol. Each member of the family must navigate the tension between maintaining his or her cultural roots and assimilating into American society.

The Namesake makes some strong suggestions about the forces that form our identity. **While reading, please annotate for key experiences that contribute to Ashoke, Ashima, and Gogol's sense of self.**

