



# Christopher Changes His Name

*Talespinners*  
Collection

## CHRISTOPHER CHANGES HIS NAME

Christopher hates his name – it's just too common! When Aunt Gail from Trinidad tells him a story about a larger-than-life character called Tiger, Christopher changes his name to Tiger. But then he finds a better name... When he has trouble cashing Aunt Gail's birthday cheque made out to Christopher Mulamba, he realizes how special his real name truly is. Maybe he could stick with it... or maybe not!


**Christopher Changes His Name** is part of the NFB's *Talespinners* collection. Created for children aged five to nine, *Talespinners* uses vibrant animation to bring popular stories from a wide range of cultural communities to the screen.

Director: Cilia Sawadogo  
Producer: Tamara Lynch

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6 minutes 34 seconds  
C9100 007

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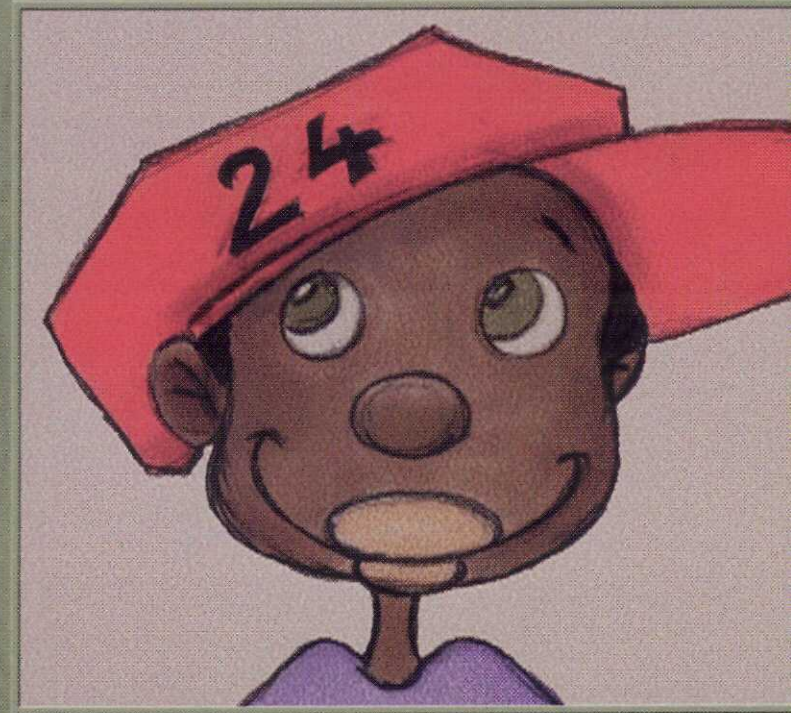
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Christopher Changes His Name



Based on the book by  
ITAH SADU



  
VHS  
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# Talespinners Collection



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## CHRISTOPHER CHANGES HIS NAME

### Study guide

#### A. Names

Review the North American tradition of names: first name, also known as a given name or Christian name; and a second name, also called a last name, family name or surname. Ask your students about:

- middle names
- shortened versions of their first name
- nicknames
- Who named you and why did they choose that name?
- Do you know the meaning of your name?
- Are any of your names religious?
- Did you receive all your names at birth?
- Does anyone have a name that their parents made up?
- Why do you think some names are considered for girls only? For boys only?

#### B. Brainstorming Exercise:

##### Who are you?

Prepare large sheets of paper with a big circle in the middle and eight pie-shaped pieces emanating from the circle to the edge of the paper. Ask the

students to draw a picture of themselves in the circle in the middle, and then brainstorm eight categories that help define who they are, eg, family, hobbies, talents, favourite things, heroes, friends, home, etc. Everybody labels each pie section with a topic from the brainstorming and then draws an appropriate item in the pie section. Together, all of the items help express individual identity. Each person can then write a reflective piece on the back of the sheet or in a journal.

#### C. Homonyms

Review the meaning of "homonym": words that sound alike but are spelled differently and mean different things. How many more can the class add to this list?

- a. cheque...check
- b. whole...hole
- c. know...no
- d. one...won
- e. tails...tales
- f. to...two
- g. four...for

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**Cilia Sawadogo** was born in 1965 in Leipzig, Germany (her mother's homeland), and eventually moved to Burkina Faso to experience her father's culture. She immigrated to Montreal to study at Concordia University, then began her career as an animator. She has directed and produced several short films, including *Naissance* (1993), *La Femme mariée à trois hommes* (1993) and *L'Arrêt d'autobus* (1994). In 1995, Cilia was assistant to the director of **Jonas and Lisa**, from the award-winning NFB collection **Rights from Heart – Part 2**. In 1996 she directed **The Cora Player** from **Rights from the Heart – Part 3**. Cilia has produced five animated clips for "Sesame Street," plus publicity clips and illustrations for various corporate clients.

Director and animator:  
**CILIA SAWADOGO**

Assistant animator:  
**VINCENT GAUTHIER**

Based on the book  
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by Itah Sadu

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