

What's In

Is there any other culture in the world that is so into nicknames as ours? Names are perennially being shortened, personalized, characterized, and 'cutesified'!

Nicknames can serve several purposes when you think about them: 1) they can simply serve as a shorter, easier-to-spell, easier-to-write version of one's given name; 2) they can signal a casual intimacy that the given name may not; 3) they can indicate the person's job ('Doc'), or physical condition ('Curly'), or

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A Name?

disposition ('Happy'); or age status ('Mikey' as opposed to 'Mike'); and so forth.

Nicknames can be funny, silly, or, as most of us have experienced when younger, hurtful. They can simply be cute, or they can be quite powerful. Whatever it is, nicknames have certainly become one of our traditions and part of our culture.

It might make an interesting collection, though. Don't you think? *Thanks to Loren Moore, CA, for these covers]*

