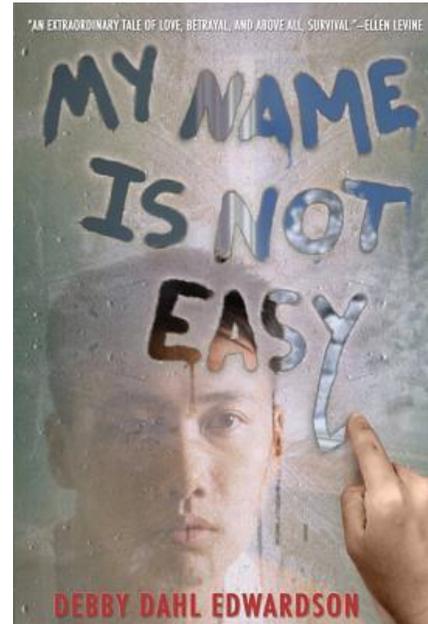


# My Name is Not Easy

By Debby D. Edwardson

**Summary:** My Name Is Not Easy is the story of Eskimo, Indian and White children who are sent to attend a Catholic boarding school in the early 1960s because there are no schools in their villages. The main character, an 11-year-old boy, knows that his name will be changed to Luke because the priests and nuns at the school won't be able to pronounce his Inupiaq Eskimo name. Luke and his younger brothers, Bunna and Isaac, are punished for speaking their native language and soon Isaac is sent away with no warning or parental permission to live with a good Catholic family. The school is attended by white and Indian children too and there is much animosity between the groups of students. Eventually, as the students learn more about each other and bond in their distaste for the way they are treated by the priests and nuns, they begin to form a family of sorts. The death of one of the brothers along with other rites of passage for the kids forces them to grow up early and they learn quickly what is really important in life.



**Publisher's recommended age(s):** 9+

## Teaching Resources/Ideas:

[http://www.bookrags.com/My\\_Name\\_Is\\_Not\\_Easy/#gsc.tab=0](http://www.bookrags.com/My_Name_Is_Not_Easy/#gsc.tab=0)

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/my-name-is-not-easy>

[Educators Guide by Debby D. Edwardson](#)

**Author Interview:** "I live far far away in Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost community on the North American Continent--the top of the world, actually.

I've lived here pretty much all of my adult life and this place and its people, the Inupiaq Eskimos of Alaska, have shaped who I am as a writer. Most of the stories I write are set within this cultural context. It is not the culture I was not born into but it is the one I belong to, the one that has become home to me as a human being and as an artist."

<https://49writers.org/2014/05/from-our-archives-interview-with-debby.html>