

A Guide to Baby Names for Millennial Parents

MRITTIKA ANAN RAHMAN

As a millennial you want to name your baby something unique. You're horrified at your parents' decisions to name you after random household objects like Shampoo, Shaban, Balti, and anything they found in their garden, like Apel, Peyara, and Lichu. How lazy. You also haven't forgotten how in sixth grade, five different Sadmans professed their love for you.

Unlike them, and as a proud millennial, you want your kid to stand out. Unless people ask "What?" five times before they give up then politely pretend to understand your child's name, you're not doing it right. The last thing you want is a name based on their physical appearance i.e. Motu, Chhotu, or Golu.

INSTAGRAM FILTERS

Nothing screams hip as much as Instagram filters. Tabassum who? Say hi to Amaro. You know who needs their diaper changed? Baby Sierra.

GREEKS GODS

People really need to understand how special your child is. So what if it breathes and eats like every other child? Your "angel sent from above" is different so name her Athena, Antheia, or Aphaea.

HARRY POTTER NAMES

Harry Potter-themed *akika* anyone? Why delay imposing your own interests on your child when you can start on Day 1? Bring out the Butterbeer and jump aboard the Hogwarts Express because baby Luna/Ariana/Lily is here. Bonus points — if to ward off the evil eye — your baby has a

thunderbolt-shaped mark on their forehead because a circle is just so basic.

AMBIGUOUS BANGLA/ENGLISH NAMES

Is this a Bangla or an English name? Doesn't matter if you can keep it vague. Neal, Arya, Aurora — the less the people know the better.

BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM

Every parent has high hopes for their child; your parents did too. Why not profess your love for your favourite footballer while forever burdening your child with the weight of their namesake's fame? Meet baby Ozil, Muller, Reus, and Eden.

You also want to completely avoid adding an embarrassing nickname and confuse the child by calling them by one name at home and another at school. If they go through an identity crisis (which



they will at some point) it really shouldn't be because of this.

Mrittika Anan Rahman is a daydreamer trying hard not to run into things while walking. Find her at mrittika.anan@gmail.com

Living with a Turtle

HIYA ISLAM

In the first week after bringing her home, Missy was lost. It took a family of four to hunt down a two-and-half-inch-long, walking dust bunny from under the study table. Although the physics of the escapade does not add up, she survived the fall. Missy is a one-year-old, red-eared slider turtle and at night time she sleeps with her neck drooping and legs sprawled out; the only time one truly realises the amount of body that remains cramped inside the shell.

The places where the ears are supposed to be are marked with red blobs. This begets the question whether turtles have ears: they do. They lack the "outer ear" as we know. They can still process vibrations through the inner ear covered by a thin layer of skin. She is a reptile of routine. Everything from bedtime to snack time, from sunbathing to shower (yes, despite staying in water 24/7) works sharply round the clock. She usually feeds on pet pellets. Tiny stinking bombs enriched with protein. But to balance her diet, her parent is careful to add in bits of

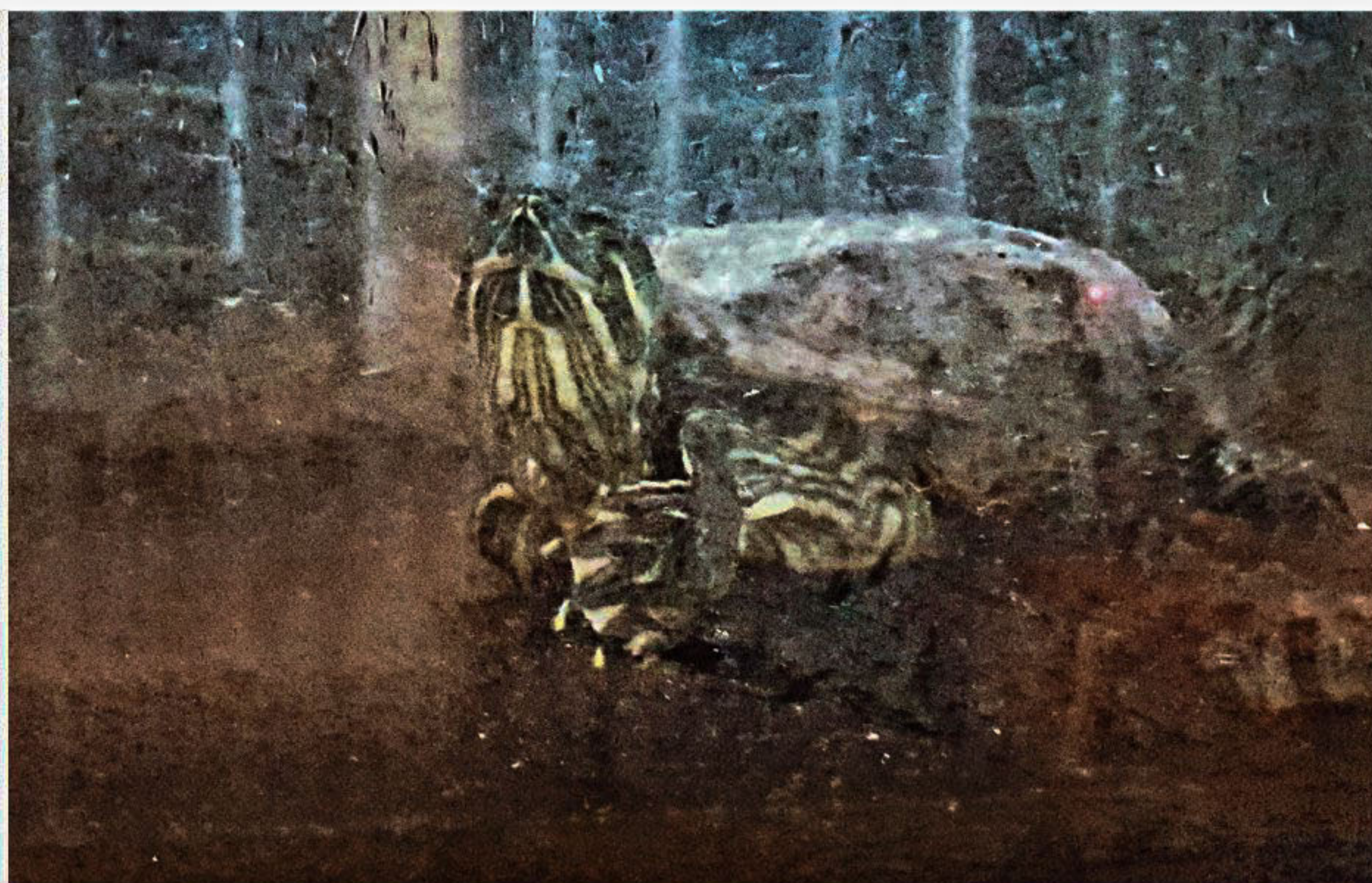


PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

fruits and veggies. Her favourites are mango, lemon and strawberries.

Her name was inspired by the fiction-

al character of Melissa "Missy" Cooper, fraternal twin of Sheldon Lee Cooper from the television series, *The Big Bang Theory*. Al-

though she proves herself to be a great playmate, there are times when she is not up for it. Because she loves to sleep. Plopping her in water is no help as she manages to snooze just as well underwater.

There is just one con to having such a tiny pet — the salvation from pesky kids. This group of beings lack any idea of holding a small pet and their acts are bound to make anyone uncomfortable, scared and anxious. One time, she was found lying amidst the tracks of a toy railway set. She was rescued moments before a four-year-old wanted to re-enact a hit and run scene from *Tom & Jerry*. At times, it gets difficult to keep an eye on her when she is let out to get some exercise. Though a hamster wheel serves the purpose, she is quick to get bored of new toys. Building blockades made of books have failed too; she manages to climb out sooner or later. And so, the washbowl remains as a never ending climb to the top.

Hiya loves food that you hate by norm- broccoli, pineapple pizza and Bounty bars. Find her at hiyaislam.11@gmail.com



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