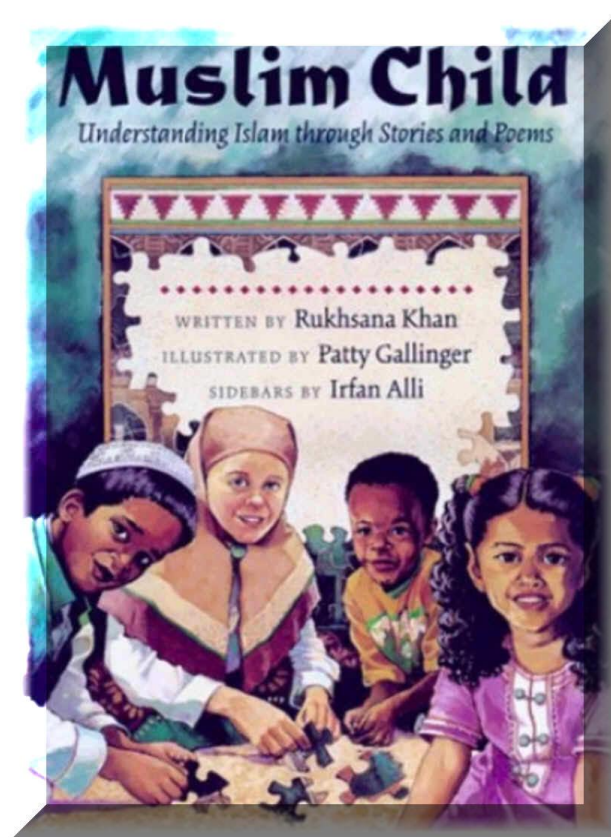


Muslim Child

Teacher's Guide for Grades 2 - 6

With Student Activity Sheets



by Rukhsana Khan
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About Rukhsana Khan

Rukhsana has been writing seriously since 1989 with at this point ten books published, several of which have been nominated and/or won various awards. Along the way she also became a storyteller and has performed at numerous festivals. For more information on Rukhsana and her books please see her website:

www.rukhsanakhan.com



Rukhsana was born in Lahore, Pakistan and immigrated to Canada, with her family, at the age of three. She began by writing for community magazines and went on to write songs and stories for the Adam's World children's videos. Rukhsana is a member of SCBWI, The Writers Union of Canada, CANSCAIP, and Storytelling Toronto. She lives in Toronto with her husband and family. Rukhsana has four children, three girls and a boy.

Books by Rukhsana:

Wanting Mor

A New Life

Many Windows

Silly Chicken

Ruler of the Courtyard

The Roses in My Carpets

Muslim Child

King of the Skies







Bedtime Ba-a-a-lk

Dahling if You Luv Me Would You Please Please Smile



Acknowledgement: This study guide created with help from Tracie Vaughn Zimmer (www.tracievaughnzimmer.com)

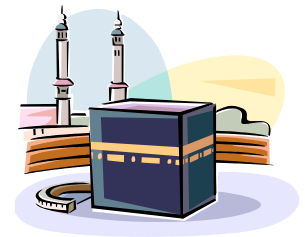
The following curriculum applications are fulfilled by the discussion topics and activities outlined in this teacher's guide:

Legend	
 writing applications	 character applications
 visual art applications	 math applications
 history applications	 social studies applications

Preparation for reading the book *Muslim Child*

Grades 2 - 6:

General—All stories



Where do Muslims come from?

What do you know about Muslims?

Conduct a class survey. Are there any Muslims in the class?

If there are any Muslims in the class, find on a map where that person came from.



If there are no Muslims in the class discuss why it is important for to learn about different people.

There are about 6 billion people in the world and of that number, about 1.2 billion people are Muslim. Approximately what fraction of the world's population is Muslim?



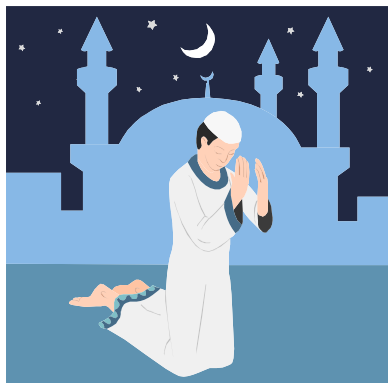
Do you think you'll ever meet a Muslim? Would it be good to know something about their beliefs?

Could you write a book which explains the parts of your own religion?

Choose one of the poems in the book and draw, paint or sculpt a piece of art to go with it.



Invent some sign language that a Muslim mother could use with her child to remind her of the different laws of Islam. (ie. pretending to wash her hands before making a sign for prayer.)



Discussion topics before reading the story *Fajr*:

This story is set in the United States. Find the United States on a map. Which city could this story take place in? Could this story also take place where you live?



Conduct a class survey. Does anyone else pray?

Do they have any special words or actions they do while they pray?

How often do they pray?

Does anybody make a special preparation before they pray?

Muslims pray five times a day and before they can pray they have to wash, they call it wudu. If a person uses the bathroom or passes gas, they have to break their prayer, make wudu again and then pray again.

This is very important to the story.

Discussion topics after reading the story *Fajr*:

Identify the core teaching of Islam represented in this story. (Answer: prayer)

Find ten new words in the text and write down their meaning, and draw a picture to help you remember it.



List three new things you learned after reading this story.

Write a poem about a time when you didn't want to get out of bed.





Discussion topics before reading the story *The Black Ghost*:

This story is set in Canada. The idea for the Black Ghost story came from something that really happened in the capital city of Canada, Ottawa, where the author's nephew was being picked up at a daycare. The children came running inside saying they'd seen



a black ghost! Find Canada and Ottawa on a map. Are there any other cities in Canada where this story could take place? Could this story also take place where you live?

Has there ever been a time that you were shy about a cultural tradition or wearing traditional clothing?

The scarf a Muslim woman wears to cover her hair is called a hijab. The cloth that some Muslim women wear to cover their face is called a niqab. The little cap a Muslim man sometimes wears is called a kufi.

What are different kinds of clothing people of different religions wear? What does the Pope wear? What does a rabbi wear?

Discussion topics after reading the story *The Black Ghost*:

Identify the core teaching of Islam represented in this story. (Answer: dress)

Find ten new words in the text and write down their meaning, and draw a picture to help you remember it.



List three new things you learned after reading this story.

What do you think happened after the story?

Would Nabeel still be shy about his seeing his mother in public?

Will Danny climb a tree so high again?





Discussion topics before reading the story *Azeeza's First Fast:*

This story is set in the United States. Find the United States on a map. Which city could this story take place in? Could this story also take place where you live?



Discuss what it means to fast. Muslims fast every day for one month in their year. It's called Ramadan.

Ramadan is a special month because the Quran, Islam's holy book, was first revealed in the last ten days of this month.

Do people in other religions fast too? (Answer: Yes. Jews fast on Yom Kippur. Some Christians observe Lent where they give up a favourite food or drink. Sometimes Native people fast before a major event like a vision quest.)

How do you feel when you're hungry and thirsty?

Muslims use a lunar calendar, that is they start a month when they see the new moon.

Identify the phases of the moon. Draw a chart that shows these phases.



What other religious traditions use the moon to count time? (Answer: Jews, Hindus, Chinese and many Native cultures.)

Discussion topics after reading the story *Azeeza's First Fast:*

Identify the core teaching of Islam represented in this story. (Answer: fasting)

Find ten new words in the text and write down their meaning, and draw a picture to help you remember it.



List three new things you learned after reading this story.

Retell the story in your own words.

What are the reasons for fasting during Ramadan?

Draw a picture of things you would like to eat after a long day's fast.





Discussion Topics before reading the story *I Love Eid*:

This story is set in Canada. Find Canada on a map. Which city could this story take place in? Are there any other cities in Canada that this story could take place? Could this story also take place where you live?



Conduct a classroom survey: what celebrations do people in the class observe? During what time of year do these celebrations occur?

What special foods are served during your celebration?

Do you dress up in special clothes?

What special greeting do you say for your celebration? (ie. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, etc.)

Discussion topics after reading the story *I Love Eid*:

Identify the core teaching of Islam represented in this story. (Answer: Muslim celebrations)



Find ten new words in the text and write down their meaning, and draw a picture to help you remember it.

List three new things you learned after reading this story.

Compare Eid ul Fitr (the Festival of Charity) to one your family celebrates each year.

Explain why Muslims do not celebrate Halloween. Are there any other groups you can think of who don't celebrate Halloween?





Discussion topics before reading the story *Samosas*!:

This story takes place in Pakistan. Find Pakistan on a map. Which city could the story take place in? Could it take place where you live too? Why or why not?



Discuss the term charity. Why is it a good idea to give to people who have less?

Discussion topics after reading the story *Samosas*!:

Identify the core teaching of Islam represented in this story. (Answer: Zakat/charity)

Find ten new words in the text and write down their meaning, and draw a picture to help you remember it.



List three new things you learned after reading this story.

Ahmad finds a coin worth a great deal of money but he returns it. What would have happened if he hadn't?

Zakat is a charity that Muslims give to the poor and needy. It is calculated by giving 2.5% of their savings. Figure out how much that would be of your allowance (if you have one or for the allowance you wish you had!). Figure out how much a police officer who has saved \$4000 in a year would have to pay in zakat. (Answer: \$100.00)





Discussion topics before reading the story *Jumbo Jelly*

Shoes:

This story takes place in England. Find England on a map. Which city could the story take place? Could this story also take place where you live?



What do you think they call candies in England? (Answer: sweets)

What kind of money do they have in England?

Have you ever bought candies that contained ingredients you weren't allowed to eat?

What would you do with the candy if it did have something you weren't allowed to eat?

Discussion topics after reading the story *Jumbo Jelly Shoes:*

Identify the core teaching of Islam represented in this story. (Answer: Halal and Haram—what's permitted and what's forbidden respectively)

Find ten new words in the text and write down their meaning, and draw a picture to help you remember it.



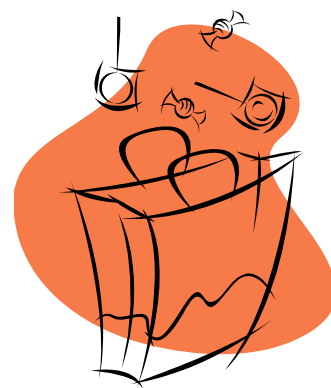
List three new things you learned after reading this story.

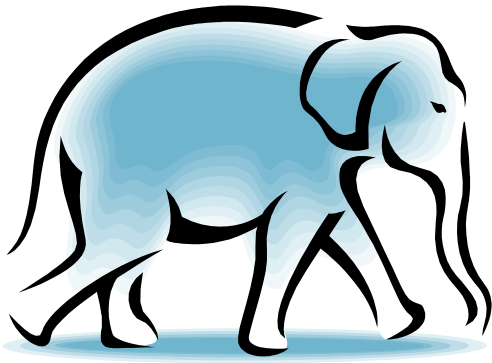
If you were to invite a Muslim friend for your birthday, what types of things should you keep in mind to respect his religion?



What might be some traditional foods he would like?

Could other people have a problem with the ingredients in the candies Jameelah buys too? (Answer: Yes. Jewish people and vegetarians may also have a problem with those ingredients.)





Discussion Topics before reading the story *The Year of the Elephant*:

This story is referred to as a framed story. It takes place in Nigeria between Halima and her grandmother but is actually about a story set in ancient Arabia. Find Nigeria on a map.



Find Arabia and Abyssinia on a map.



The kingdom of Abyssinia was approximately where modern day Ethiopia is situated.

Abraha crossed over to Yemen and traveled up the Arabian peninsula toward Mecca. Research the history of African kingdoms.



Discussion Topics after reading the story *The Year of the Elephant*:

Identify the core teaching of Islam represented in this story. (Answer: The historical person Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him))

Find ten new words in the text and write down their meaning, and draw a picture to help you remember it.



List three new things you learned after reading this story.



Discussion Topics before reading the story *Lost at Hajj*:

This story takes place in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Find Saudi Arabia on a map. Could this story take place in any other country or any other city? (Answer: No.)



Mecca is the most sacred city in Islam because it is home to the Kaaba.

Muslims believe the Kaaba is the first house of God. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was born in Mecca.

The second most sacred city is Medina. Find Medina on a map. Medina is the city that the Prophet (peace be upon him) migrated to, and is the place where he is buried.



The third most sacred city is Jerusalem. Find Jerusalem on a map.

Notice how close Mecca lies to the Equator. Mecca is extremely important to Muslims also because it is the direction Muslims face when they pray. ie. in the *Samosas* story, when Ahmad prays which direction would he face? (Answer: west) In the *Fajr* story, which way would Jamal face when he prays? (Answer: east) Show the students this on a map that in this way they'd all be facing Mecca.



The word 'mecca' also has a meaning in English. It means a place visited by many people ie. a mecca for tourists.

Do you think the English word came from name of the city?

Discussion Topics after Reading the story *Lost at Hajj*:

Identify the core teaching of Islam represented in this story. (Answer: The pilgrimage to Mecca (fifth pillar of Islam))

Find ten new words in the text and write down their meaning, and draw a picture to help you remember it.



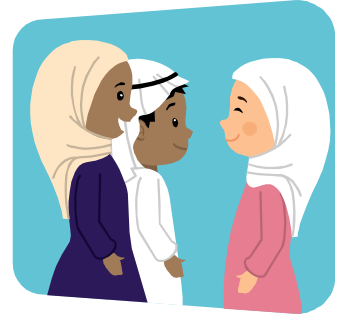
List three new things you learned after reading this story. In the story, Bilal is hopelessly lost in the mighty sea of people performing their pilgrimage to Mecca. Write a poem about his story. Make sure you focus on how lonely he would feel without his family.





Student Activity Sheet **For *Muslim Child***

Grades 4 – 6



1. Describe the difference between Moslem and Muslim.
2. List three new things you learned after reading this book?
3. Which story was your favourite? Why?
4. What was the most interesting fact that you learned?
5. Write an emotional outline of what happened: Describe how the main character feels in the beginning of the story, how he feels in the middle and how he feels in the end. Explain how they have changed because of what happened.
6. Pretend that you are a new student in your school and you just happen to be Muslim. Write a journal entry as to what your first day was like. Explain how you can help others to understand you.
7. Write a story which explains parts of your own beliefs.

Other Resources

Muhammad by Demi

A Is for Allah by Yusuf Islam

The Life of the Last Prophet by Yusuf Islam

Tell Me about Hajj by Saniyasnain Khan

Islamic Festivals by Khadija Knight

