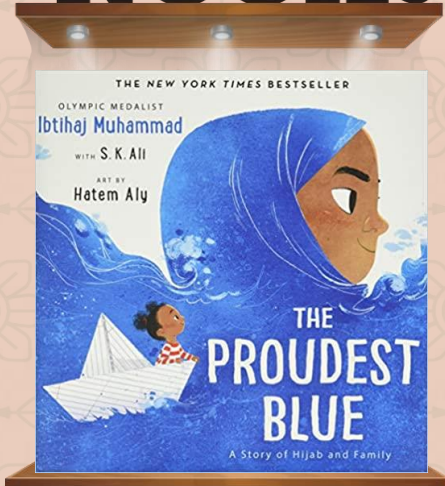


New York State
BOOK NOOKS



The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family

A beautiful story about embracing one's identity. Amongst misunderstandings and hurtful words, Asiya stands strong and proud of her religion. Asiya's younger sister, Faizah, is excited for her but is soon hurt and confused by the mean words that others speak about Asiya's beautiful Hijab.

Title: The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family

Author: Ibtihaj Muhammad with S.K. Ali

Illustrator: Hatem Aly

Publisher: Little, Brown, and Company

Date published: 2019

Social and emotional Pyramid Model skills children can learn through this book:

Pride in one's identity is the key theme intended by the author.

Other skills include:

Ignoring mean words, walking away from people who say mean things, expressing one's culture/identity

Social and emotional words this book can emphasize:

Love, anger, excitement, acceptance, pride, defensive, identity, curious, hurtful, nervous, reassured, family, faith, religion, discrimination, bullying

Pyramid Model Activities to do while reading the book that will help promote social and emotional development:

- Before reading the book, ask children if they have ever seen another person wearing clothing or accessories that were different; that made them curious. Create a list of these items for future research/investigation.
- Explain that people express their culture or faith by what they wear. This is a book about sisters who show their identity by wearing their hijab. Hijab means "to cover".
- The Hijab is a covering that Muslim women & men choose to wear in observance of their religious beliefs. Each person chooses if, how, and when they wear hijab. Women typically cover their head and upper body. Men usually cover from their waist to below their knees.
- Display several scarves of varying fabrics and colors for children to explore the beauty of the hijab and reenact the joy of Asiya in her religion.

Fun for Everyone! Activities to promote social and emotional development throughout the day:

Teach acceptance by educating children on religions they are not familiar with.

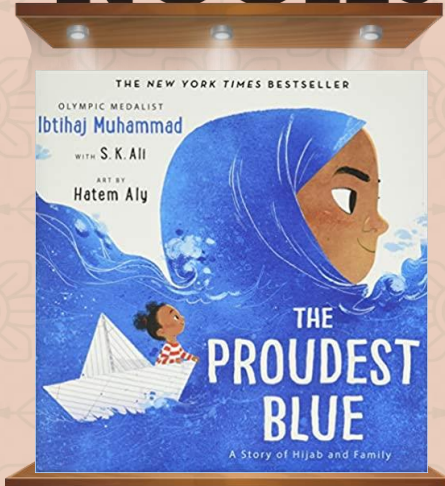
Dispel misconceptions.

- Invite families to share their religious beliefs and traditions. Families can choose to share pictures or videos of their cultures and explain the significance. Family members can visit in person or virtually.
- Children can create a display of their family culture/tradition. Children can share their understanding of their culture with the class in short presentations.
- From the pre-reading list, teacher can help children research the answers to understand the distinct clothing they have seen.
- Adults can celebrate the beauty and values of each family and child's presentations. Children will learn from the teacher's example that differences are to be embraced and each person is to be respected.

Promote Self-Love through Literacy

- Share other books depicting minorities in roles that are generally dominated by white people such as [Dream Big Little One](#) by Vashti Harrison and books about self assurance such as [Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon](#) by Patty Lovell (both have accompanying Book Nooks).

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Build upon children's curiosities:

- From the list made of "curious clothing", adults can help children research the history of the distinct clothing.
- As they learn about the aspects of the clothing, provide a variety of resources such as books, videos, the article of clothing and guest speakers to elaborate on the cultural/religious norms.
- Include a variety of artifacts & clothing from each culture/religion as they complete the research.

AUTHOR STUDY

Ibtihaj Muhammad is a fencer and the first Muslim American woman in hijab to compete for the US in Olympic Games. Visit her site at ibtihajmuhammad.com.

Share her interview with Sports Illustrated Kids:

<https://www.sikids.com/kid-reporter/ibtihaj-muhammad-the-proudest-blue-q-a>

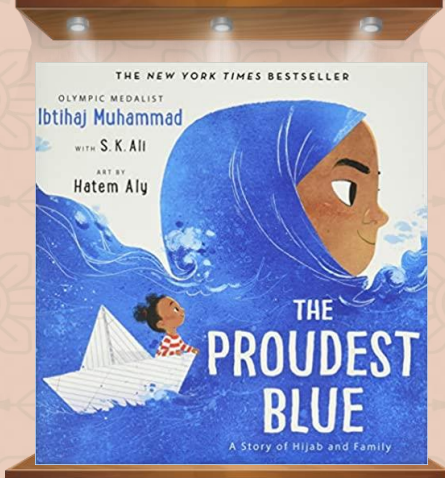
S.K. Ali has written books for middle grades, young adults, and picture books of realistic stories. Visit her site at <https://skalibooks.com/>

Discovering Self-Identity

- Show & Tell: children are invited to bring an object (from home or around the classroom) that they really like. They talk about why they like it or what makes that special. Make it clear that everyone has the right to speak their own opinion.
- When children create (with art materials, blocks, nature, build forts...), inquire what the story is about their creation, ask if there is a story. Listen and scribe their answers. Ask children why and how questions to discover their inner thoughts. Invite the children to share their stories with their classmates with reassurance it is okay to keep the story private.
- Create books with each child that goes beyond describing their physical attributes. For example: what they want to be and why; places they enjoy and why; who they like to spend time with and why; what they want other people to know about themselves and why they want others to know it; what they are good at; things they believe are right and wrong.
- Children's identity goes beyond what they look like, their identity is deep within.

From the book, place the mother's quoted advice around the classroom. Read them with the children often. As you read one, ask the child(ren) what the quote means. Let the child(ren) freely answer without correction, but with affirmation.

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Videos about Hijab

Majede Najar: Why I wear a hijab
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYvYBxt_Dg&feature=emb_logo



My Hijab – Inspirational True Story
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1O7HEs7ER4&feature=emb_lo



Hijab & Me
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7B0kcat32kU&feature=emb_logo



Songs celebrating “Me”

Sesame Street: A Song About Celebrating You!
<https://youtu.be/dw1ABCsuxoY>



Songs that relate to the book:

Just a Little Seed (I've Got Potential)
 by Liz Buchanan

When I'm Strong by David and Jenny Heitler-Klevans

“Wipe it Away” on Dandelion: Songs for Developing Toddlers and Early Preschoolers [this song would be a good follow up to the Quote Mama said in the book “Don’t carry around the hurtful words that others say. Drop them. They are not yours to keep.”]

