

Model Imaginative Piece:

Hamza's First Jawlah

1. Engaging Orientation

After Asr prayer on Saturday, Hamza stood outside the masjid in Merrylands, twisting the end of his sleeve.

The afternoon sun spread gold across the footpath. Cars hummed past. A crow cawed from a powerline. Somewhere nearby, a shop door went *ding*, and the street sounded busy and alive.

Today was Hamza's first Jawlah.

He knew Jawlah meant going out to visit people and remind them about Allah, salah and coming to the masjid. The brothers stood near the gate, smiling and speaking softly. One uncle held a small notebook. Baba stood beside Hamza with a calm face.

But Hamza did not feel calm.

His heart beat like a tiny drum.

Thump. Thump. Thump.

"What if I forget what to say?" Hamza whispered.

Baba placed a warm hand on his shoulder. "You do not need to say everything. You only need to speak with sincerity."

Hamza looked at the street ahead.

Door after door.

Step after step.

Heart after heart.

The path seemed longer than usual.

"What if they don't listen?" Hamza asked.

Baba smiled gently. "Guidance belongs to Allah. Our job is only to remind."

Hamza nodded, but fear still sat inside him like a stone.

2. Backstory

As they began walking, Baba slowed down so Hamza could walk beside him.

“When I was your age,” Baba said, “my father took me on Jawlah too.”

“Were you scared?” Hamza asked.

Baba laughed softly. “Very scared. My knees felt like jelly.”

Hamza smiled.

“It was after Fajr,” Baba continued. “The sky was dark blue, and the air was cold. The birds were just waking up. *Chirp, chirp, chirp*. My father sat with me outside the masjid and told me something important.”

“What did he say?” Hamza asked.

“He said, ‘The one who guides others to good receives a reward like the one who does it.’”

Hamza thought carefully. “So if we remind someone to pray, and they pray, Allah may reward us too?”

Baba nodded. “Yes. That is why we speak kindly. We are not forcing people. We are inviting them.”

Then Baba pointed back to the masjid. Its white walls glowed in the sunlight.

“Think of the masjid like a lantern,” Baba said. “When we go on Jawlah, we carry a little of its light into the street.”

Hamza looked at the masjid. For a moment, it really did look like a lantern.

Maybe he could carry some of that light too.

3. Conflicts and Resolutions

Conflict 1: Hamza is fearful

The group stopped at the first house.

The gate creaked.

Creeeak.

Hamza froze behind Baba. The front door looked far away, almost like a mountain.

“What if they laugh at me?” he whispered.

His mouth felt dry. His hands felt cold. His thoughts fluttered like frightened moths.

Resolution 1: Hamza remembers an Islamic example

Baba bent down beside him. “Remember Prophet Musa عليه السلام. When Allah told him to speak to Fir‘awn, he asked Allah to open his chest, make his task easy and untie the knot from his tongue.”

Hamza quietly whispered part of the du‘a he had learnt:

“Rabbi ishrah li sadri...”

My Lord, open my chest.

His breathing slowed. His fear did not disappear, but it became smaller, like a shadow shrinking in the sun.

Hamza stepped beside Baba.

The door opened.

Conflict 2: Someone does not want to listen

An older boy opened the door. He had headphones around his neck and a video game controller in his hand.

From inside the house came loud sounds.

Boom! Zap! Crash!

“As-salamu alaykum,” Baba said kindly.

“Wa alaykum as-salam,” the boy replied, but his eyes kept moving back to the screen.

Baba spoke gently about salah and coming to the masjid. The boy shifted from one foot to the other. He looked at Baba. He looked at the screen. He looked at his controller.

Hamza felt annoyed.

He is not even listening, Hamza thought.

Resolution 2: Hamza stays calm and kind

Then Hamza remembered Baba's words.

We invite. We do not force.

Hamza took a small step forward.

"We're going to the masjid after Maghrib," he said. "You can come with us. Maybe you can play after."

The boy looked at Hamza, surprised.

Hamza smiled a small smile.

"My baba says salah helps clean the heart," Hamza added, "like wudu cleans the body."

The boy looked down at his controller.

"Maybe," he said. "What time?"

"After Maghrib," Hamza replied.

The boy did not promise, but his face softened a little, like a curtain moving in the breeze.

Conflict 3: Hamza wants to play games

Soon, they reached a small park.

Children were playing soccer. Their laughter bounced through the air.

"Hamza!" someone shouted.

It was Yusuf from school.

A soccer ball rolled to Hamza's feet.

Thud.

"Come play!" Yusuf called.

Hamza stared at the ball. It looked like a round, perfect temptation.

He wanted to run.

He wanted to kick.

He wanted to shout.

He wanted to score one amazing goal.

The ball seemed to whisper, *Just one game.*

Resolution 3: Hamza understands there is a time and place

Hamza looked at Baba. Then he looked at the brothers walking together.

He remembered why he had come.

There was a time to play.

There was a time to pray.

There was a time to chase a ball.

There was a time to walk towards a bigger purpose.

Hamza gently kicked the ball back.

“I can play another time,” he said. “Today I’m with my dad for Jawlah.”

Yusuf shrugged and ran back to the game.

Hamza felt a small ache in his chest, but he also felt proud. He had given up one small game for something greater.

Conflict 4: No one is home

At the next house, no one answered.

Hamza knocked gently.

Knock, knock, knock.

Silence.

He knocked again.

Knock, knock, knock.

Still silence.

At another house, the curtains were closed. At another, the driveway was empty. A dog barked behind a fence.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Hamza sighed. “This is not working. No one is home. No one is listening. No one is coming.”

Resolution 4: Hamza learns to try again another time

Baba did not look upset.

“Hamza,” he said, “what happens when we plant a seed?”

“It grows,” Hamza answered.

“Straight away?”

Hamza shook his head. “No. It needs water, sunlight and time.”

Baba nodded. “A reminder can be like a seed. We may not see it grow today.”

Hamza looked at the quiet house.

Maybe the person was busy.

Maybe they were sleeping.

Maybe they were not ready yet.

“So we can come back another day?” Hamza asked.

“InshaAllah,” Baba said.

Hamza smiled. The closed door no longer felt like failure. It felt like an unopened book waiting for another page.

4. Meaningful Conclusion

By the time they walked back to the masjid, the sun was sinking behind the rooftops. The sky was orange and pink, as if the day was making du'a before leaving.

Hamza's legs were tired. His throat was dry. His sleeve was twisted again.

But his heart felt lighter.

Baba looked down at him. "How was your first Jawlah?"

Hamza thought about his fear, the boy with the controller, the soccer ball and the quiet houses.

"It was harder than I thought," Hamza said.

Baba smiled. "Good things usually are."

Hamza looked at the masjid glowing in the evening light. Soon, the call to Maghrib would begin. The doors were open. The carpets were waiting. The rows would form, shoulder to shoulder.

Maybe Hamza had not changed the whole street.

Maybe only one person had listened.

Maybe his words were only small.

But a seed is small.

A candle is small.

A single knock is small.

And still, with Allah's permission, small things can grow, glow and open doors.

Hamza smiled and followed Baba inside.

Activity 1:

Find quotes from the story for each technique.

Techniques	Definition of technique	Quote
Imagery	Language that helps the reader picture, hear, feel, smell or taste something.	
Simile	A comparison between two things using “like” or “as”.	
Metaphor	A comparison that says one thing is another thing.	
Symbolism	When an object, place or action represents a deeper idea.	
Repetition	When words or ideas are repeated to make them stand out.	
Anaphora	When the same word or phrase is repeated at the beginning of sentences or lines.	
Listing	A group of words or ideas placed together to show detail or build meaning.	

Techniques	Definition of technique	Quote
Alliteration	Repetition of the same starting sound in nearby words.	
Sibilance	Repetition of soft “s” sounds to create a gentle or whispering effect.	
Onomatopoeia	A word that sounds like the noise it describes.	
Dialogue	Conversation between characters.	
Direct speech	The exact words spoken by a character, shown inside quotation marks.	
Internal thought	A character’s private thinking shown to the reader.	
Characterisation	The way a writer shows what a character is like through actions, words, thoughts and feelings.	
Setting	The time and place where the story happens.	
Motif	An idea, object or image that appears again and again in a story.	

Techniques	Definition of technique	Quote
Contrast	Showing differences between two things to make an idea clearer.	
Tension	A feeling of worry, pressure or excitement that makes the reader want to know what happens next.	
Islamic allusion	A reference to an Islamic person, event, teaching or idea.	
Intertextuality	When a story connects to another text, story, teaching or source.	

Activity 2: Planning Our Next Story

Story planning area	Common term	What it means	How this could appear in the story
1. Character wants to improve himself first	Iṣlāḥ / إصلاح	A person tries to become better before advising others. Their actions should support their words.	The main character realises he should pray properly, speak kindly, and behave well before reminding others.
2. Character has a sincere intention	Ikhḷāṣ / إخلاص	Da‘wah should be done for Allah’s sake, not to show off, impress people, or win arguments.	Before going on Jawlah, the character quietly makes du‘ā and reminds himself that he is doing this for Allah.
3. Character visits people	Jawlah / جولة	Going in small groups to visit Muslims and gently invite them towards salah, the masjid, and Islamic practice.	The character joins his father and a small group as they walk through the neighbourhood and knock on doors.
4. Character invites someone to the masjid	Da‘wah ilā al-masjid / دعوة إلى المسجد	Encouraging people to attend the masjid, especially for prayer and reminders.	The character invites an older boy to come to the masjid after Maghrib instead of only playing video games.
5. Character gives a short reminder	Bayān / بيان	Sharing a simple reminder about faith, salah, akhirah, good character, or obeying Allah.	The character gives a short, gentle reminder that salah helps clean the heart like wudu cleans the body.
6. Character learns through reading	Ta‘līm / تعليم	Sitting together to read and learn Islamic teachings about good deeds, prayer, dhikr, and manners.	In the backstory, the character remembers sitting in the masjid while his father reads a short lesson after prayer.

Story planning area	Common term	What it means	How this could appear in the story
7. Character remembers Allah	Dhikr / ذكر	Remembering Allah through du‘ā, tasbīḥ, Qur’an, and reflection.	When the character feels nervous, he whispers a du‘ā and remembers that Allah can help him speak with courage.
8. Character shows respect and kindness	Ikrām al-Muslim / إكرام المسلم	Treating other Muslims with honour, gentleness, and patience, even if they are not practising.	When someone does not listen, the character stays calm and respectful instead of becoming angry.
9. Character gives time for da‘wah	Khurūj fī sabīlillāh / خروج في سبيل الله	Giving time by going out for da‘wah, learning, and self-improvement.	The character gives up playing soccer for a short time so he can continue walking with the group.
10. Character avoids arguing	Tark al-jidāl / ترك الجدال	Not debating, insulting, or forcing people. The focus is on inviting, not winning.	When the older boy seems uninterested, the character does not argue. He simply smiles and invites him gently.

Story Plan: A Weekend for Allah

Story section	Planning notes
Title	A Weekend for Allah
Main character	Yusuf , a Year 5 student who is going on Khurūj fi sabīlillāh for the first time with his father and a small group from the masjid.
Setting	A local masjid, a nearby suburb, and the streets around a small Muslim community. The story takes place over one weekend.
Meaning of Khurūj fi sabīlillāh	Giving time to go out for da‘wah, learning, prayer and self-improvement for the sake of Allah.
Main idea	Yusuf learns that giving time for Allah is not just about speaking to others. It is also about improving himself, being patient, showing kindness and trusting Allah.
Symbol	A small travel bag: At first, the bag feels heavy and annoying. By the end, it symbolises Yusuf’s effort, sacrifice and growing responsibility.

Part of story	What happens
1. Engaging orientation	After Jumu‘ah prayer, Yusuf watches his father pack a small bag for the weekend Khurūj. Yusuf is excited at first, but then he realises he will miss his soccer game, his tablet and sleeping in his own bed. The masjid is busy with brothers preparing to leave. Yusuf feels nervous because this is his first time.
2. Backstory	Baba tells Yusuf about his own first Khurūj when he was young. He explains that his father taught him that da‘wah begins with fixing yourself first. Baba tells Yusuf that they are not going to argue with people or judge anyone. They are going to pray together, learn together, visit people kindly and invite them to the masjid. Yusuf remembers a short reminder he once heard: “The best journey is the one that brings you closer to Allah.”
3. Conflict 1: Yusuf does not want to leave his comforts	Yusuf looks at his tablet, his bed and his soccer boots. He feels upset that he has to leave them behind for the weekend. His travel bag feels heavy in his hand.
Resolution 1: Yusuf learns sacrifice	Baba explains that giving time for Allah sometimes means leaving small comforts for a short time. Yusuf decides to pack his bag without complaining. He tells himself, “I can play later, but this weekend is for Allah.”
4. Conflict 2: Yusuf feels shy during Jawlah	The group walks through the neighbourhood to visit people. When they reach the first house, Yusuf hides behind his father. He worries that people will laugh or ask difficult questions.
Resolution 2: Yusuf uses courage and sincerity	Baba reminds Yusuf that he does not need to give a big speech. He only needs to smile, say salām and invite people kindly. Yusuf softly says, “We’re having a short reminder at the masjid after Maghrib. You’re welcome to come.” He feels proud that he tried.
5. Conflict 3: Someone responds rudely	At one house, a man opens the door and says, “I’m busy. Don’t waste my time.” Yusuf feels hurt and wants to answer back.

Part of story	What happens
Resolution 3: Yusuf shows patience and respect	The group leader calmly says, “No problem. May Allah bless your time.” Yusuf learns that da‘wah is not about winning an argument. It is about planting a seed with good manners.
6. Conflict 4: Yusuf feels tired and misses home	That night, Yusuf feels tired. His blanket at the masjid feels thin, and he misses his room. He wonders if he made a mistake by coming.
Resolution 4: Yusuf finds peace through prayer and ta‘līm	After Fajr, Yusuf listens to a short ta‘līm about remembering Allah. The masjid is quiet, the morning air is cool, and Yusuf feels calm. He realises his heart feels lighter than it does after playing games all night.
7. Meaningful conclusion	When Yusuf returns home, his bag still feels heavy, but Yusuf feels stronger. He has learned that Khurūj is a journey of the heart. He did not change the whole world, but he changed a little part of himself. The travel bag becomes a symbol of his first step towards becoming more responsible, patient and sincere.

Simple student message

Khurūj fī sabīlillāh is not only a journey through streets and suburbs. It is a journey towards Allah, where a person learns patience, kindness, sacrifice and sincerity.

Now compose your story.

