

Supporting the Muslim Child Through Literature

Muslim-Centered Children's and YA Booklists

[30 Children's Books with Muslim Characters](#)

[Hijabi Librarians Booklists](#)

[Islamic School Librarian](#)

[Muslim Characters & Cultures: FirstBook Marketplace](#)

[Muslims in KidLit](#)

[YA Books with Muslim Main Characters](#)

A Teacher's Guide to Islam Guide to Islam & Muslims

<https://www.whyislam.org/americanmuslims/teachers/>

Once Upon an Eid Glossary:

5 Daily Prayers	Muslims are expected to pray five times a day. The names for these prayers are Fajr (right before sunrise), Dhuhr (during the morning), Asr (during the afternoon), Maghrib (near sunset), and Isha (during the evening).
Allah	Literal translation for "God" in Arabic
As Salam Alaikum / Wa alaikum as salam / salaam	"May Peace Be Upon You"/"May peace be upon you as well"/ "Peace" the standard greeting between Muslims. "Salaam" is a shorter version
Eid	A celebration or feast that repeats
Eid-ul-Adha	The feast of sacrifice which is marked by the tenth day of the month of Hajj
Eid-ul-Fitr	The feast of breaking the fast which marks the end of Ramadan
Fasting	This is one of the 5 pillars during which Muslims abstain from any type of food and drink from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan.
Hajj	The holy annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia that is an obligation for every Muslim who is financially able to afford it.
Hijab	A scarf worn by Muslims to represent their faith
Iftar	The meal at sunset during which Muslims break their fast during Ramadan
Imam	The head of the mosque and the one who usually leads the prayers at the mosque
Islam	One of the three monotheistic Abrahamic faiths and the second largest religion in the world
Lunar Calendar	A calendar used by Muslims that follows the monthly cycles of the moon
Masjid/Mosque	The place of worship that Muslims attend
Muslim	A person who follows the religion of Islam
Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)	The final prophet in a long series of prophets that delivered the message of Islam to humanity. It is Muslim tradition to say "Peace be upon him" whenever his name is mentioned
Quran	The Holy Book of Islam

Ramadan	A holy month in Islam's lunar calendar in which Muslims fast from dawn to dusk everyday. It is also the month the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
Saqada	Charity. Islam champions charity but looks down upon those who remind others of their charitableness.
Suhoor	A meal that is eaten before dawn in preparation for the fast the next day
Taraweeh	Supplemental prayers offered at a mosque after the evening prayer during the holy month of Ramadan

Great Muslim Instagram educator/author/blogger accounts to follow:

TeachingwhileMuslim
Rahmarodaah
Misselgendy
Asmahanmashrah
Teachingwithnour
Helloholydays
Hijabilibrarians
Ashleyfranklinwrites
MuslimArc
Razeenareads
YesImhotinthis


This panel asked the public this question:

Students, what do you wish your teachers knew to help make the classroom environment a more safe and inclusive space? Parents, what do you wish your kids' teachers knew to help make them and you feel more comfortable at school?


These were the responses:

1. **Representation:** We want more representation of Muslim characters, books, and Muslim teachers. We want books that were written for kids (not Kite Runner) and more books with Muslim names and hijabi characters.
2. **Knowledge:** We don't want to explain everything. Please do the work of learning. We often can't explain complex things within our religion. Please don't put the burden on Muslim students to teach others.
3. **Holidays:** It's normal not to celebrate them and we are fine. Please don't assume we celebrate, make accommodations, and be inclusive in your holiday practices.


4. **Ramadan & Eid:** Please make lunchtime, gym, and recess accommodations during Ramadan. Don't feel sorry for us if we are fasting. Please excuse assignments for Eid. (Check out [yesimhotinthis](#) free poster for Ramadan tips)
5. **Food:** Avoid pork and gelatin-based products, try to have vegetarian options. Don't make faces at our "ethnic foods." Celebrate food variety
6. **MSA:** We want Muslim Student Associations/ affinity groups
7. **Prayer:** Please provide a space in the school, especially during Ramadan.
8. **Pronunciations:** It's not "Izlam" or "Muzlim." Please learn to say our names correctly: ask all students how to pronounce their names and not single out the "foreign" sounding names.
9. **Stereotypes/Prejudices:** terrorism, oppression, etc. Avoid white saviorism.
10. **Bilingualism:** Please don't say, "You speak good English" to parents/kids. Please celebrate bilingualism.
11. **Ethnicity:** Avoid assumptions about who is Muslim and who is not. Don't guess our ethnicities. Don't assume we're all immigrants. Muslims are diverse.



CONTACT US!




<https://jamilahthewriter.com/>




<http://www.nevienshaabneh.com/>

<https://sairamir.com/>



<https://skalibooks.com/>



<https://ayakhalil.com/>

Credit: Nagla Bedir @Teachingwhilemuslim for assistance in developing this handout