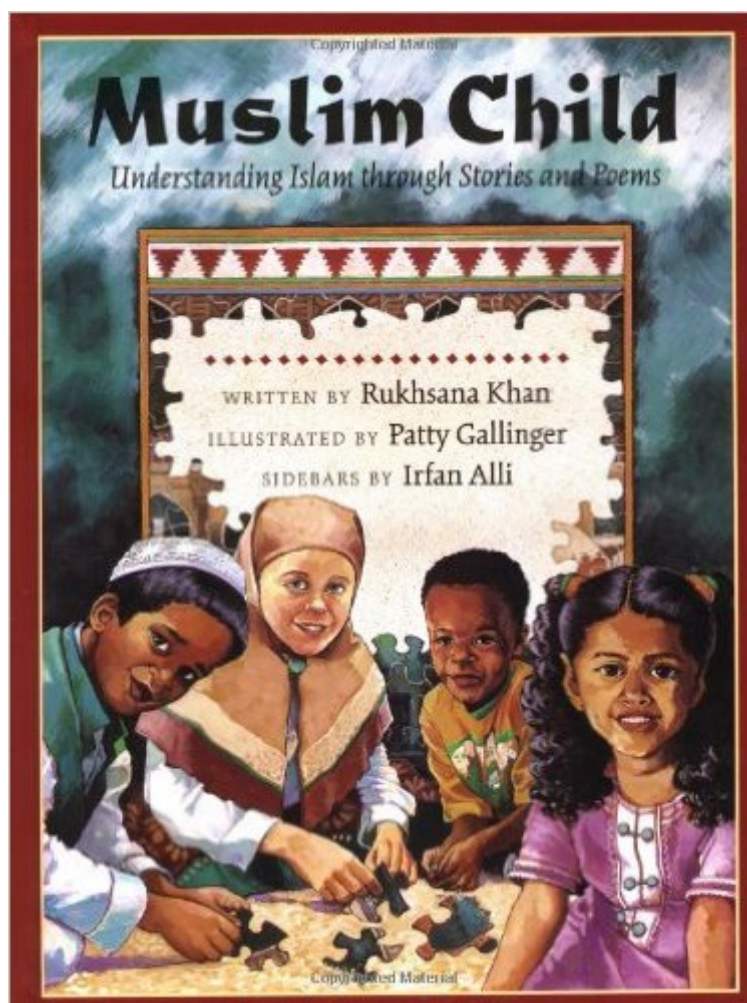


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Muslim Child: Understanding Islam Through Stories And Poems



Synopsis

This insightful collection of stories and poems is a child-centered introduction to Islam. In one story, a boy feels guilty when he short-changes his prayer. In another story, a girl buys candy she can't eat because it contains pork by-products.

Book Information

Hardcover: 104 pages

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company (January 1, 2002)

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Product Dimensions: 11.1 x 8.8 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #601,871 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Islam](#) #141 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East](#) #347 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Having read Muslim Child, I really think it could be titled "Child". It's for anyone. I've never seen a book that deals with issues of faith in such a way. As a Catholic I could completely identify with the feelings of the kids in the stories. It really made me appreciate the similarities between our respective religions. I think it's this author's best book.

I am really excited to be reading this book with six year old son right now, and someday with my daughter too, because I want both of them to have understanding about the other people and faiths in the world around them. I want my my children to think about how other people think, in order to better form their own opinions and beliefs. I also want them to have kindness and understanding for their neighbors, and an appreciation for morality in every culture. I thought that for your average American I knew a decent amount about the Muslim religion but three chapters into "Muslim Child: Understanding Islam Through Stories and Poems" by Rukhsana Khan I am realizing how ignorant I

am. For example, I knew that prayer was one of the five pillars of Islam but I did not know that the first prayer, or Fajr, had to be done before sunrise. So at certain points in the year this can mean waking your whole family up at 4:30 AM, washing, praying, and then going back to bed. That really teaches kids about discipline and commitment! Another story we read was about a girl who was grown up enough to try fasting for Ramadan for the first time. It really made my six year old son and I both think about growing up, taking on new responsibility, and perseverance.

This is a wonderful book. It's informative, non-judgemental, and non-proselytizing. I was especially impressed that the authors managed to tell a series of situational stories from a child's point of view. My favorite was the one about the little boy who becomes separated from his parents at Mecca and finds shelter with a kindly old man. This book covers such topics as Muslim minority children having to choose between adherences to their religion, e.g. forgoing observance of prayer times and dietary restrictions for the sake of convenience and fitting in with the crowd. I could feel the self-consciousness myself when a little boy overhears his friends mistaken his mother for a ghost after being frightened by her veil, and the guilt when a young girl succumbs to temptation and devours the delicious candies that contain pork byproducts.

This book is so informative and well-written it should be in every muslim house. However, this book is not only very good for muslim children, it is also an excellent book for non-muslim children to read and learn more about islam. It can be used as an excellent tool in a classroom to dispel any misconceptions non-muslim children may carry against their muslim classmates. They will be able to learn more about prayer, fasting, eid and other things that their muslim classmates and friends follow in their lives.

Written by Rukhsana Khan, illustrated by Patty Gallinger, and with sidebars by Irfan Alli, *Muslim Child: Understanding Islam Through Stories And Poems* is a selection of stories and poems designed to teach young readers about Islam. *Muslim Child* is emphatically not a proselytizing book, but rather an informational one, designed to show young people how Islamic children live, what they believe, and what the common practices of their faith are. A highly recommended and educational book for children everywhere, in an increasingly globalized world and in view of contemporary world events.

My favorite short story is the Black Ghost. The children run from fear of her and her young son is

dreadfully embarrassed until the black ghost rescues one of the boys. Reaching out from under her black abaya, the mysterious woman is soft and gentle. The young boys confront their friend, "You never told us you had such a nice mother."Children's Nonfiction

I can only hope that this brilliant book helped educate Muslims and non-Muslims about the true beauty of Islam.

This insightful collection of stories and poems is a child-centered introduction to Islam. Each of the eight stories, often using humor, deals with a major aspect of Islam. Not-fiction sidebars explain the Arabic words and religious terminology. Teachers/Librarians: 3rd - 7th grades - Social Studies curriculum.

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