

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Culture, Family, Self-acceptance

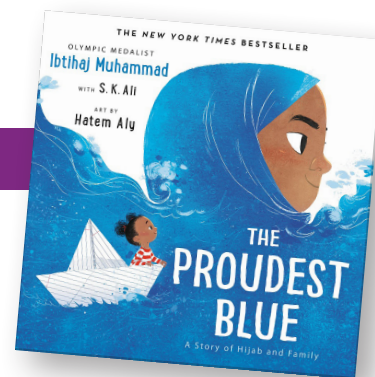
Book Brief: Faizah, a young Muslim girl, is excited for the first day of school, especially because her sister Asiya is wearing her beautiful blue hijab for the first time. When faced with hurtful comments, Faizah learns to stand strong and celebrate the beauty and strength of her sister's choice.

Author:

Ibtihaj Muhammad &
S.K. Ali

Illustrator:

Hatem Aly



TIME TO READ!

The Cover: Look at the cover of the book with students and ask, “What do you see on the cover of this book? What does it mean to be proud?” Discuss student responses and keep them in mind for the picture walk.

Picture Walk: Flip through some pages and ask students what they notice. Remind them of what they shared about the cover. Ask students if they still think the same things based on the pictures in the book, or if they have some new ideas about what will happen in the story. What makes them think that?

Vocabulary: This story will introduce words about self-expression. Use Picture Cards: *hijab*, *special*, *beautiful*, *strong*, *important*, *proud*. Ask students if they know of words in their home language(s) that mean the same thing as these words

Purpose for Reading: “Throughout this book, the authors describe the color blue in lots of different ways. Listen for all the ways the authors describes blue.”

WHILE WE READ

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (LEVELS 1-4)

Throughout the story, pause and ask...

- **Level 1:** “Point to the hijab on this page.”
- **Level 2:** “Does Faizah wear a hijab? Yes or no?” Students can answer yes/no or use a physical response such as thumbs up/down or nodding

their head.

- **Level 3:** “How does the author describe the blue hijab? Share words or pictures from the book.”
- **Level 4:** “How does Faizah feel in the story? Have you ever felt that way?”

LET’S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: “How did the author describe the color blue? What words and pictures did the authors use to show the ways blue is a proud color?”

BOOK ACTIVITY: **Proud to Be Me! Class Book**

Materials: paper, crayons, pencils, markers

One way people express themselves and their beliefs is through what they wear. This includes special clothing, jewelry, head coverings, or hairstyles. In this story, the color blue was special to the sisters and represented their pride and strength. Have each student draw themselves wearing something special to them. Then have them write about their drawing or dictate to you. Support your students’ spelling with the Sound-Spelling Chart and Picture Vocabulary Cards. Add this book to your classroom library or take turns sending it home with each child.