

The Proudest Blue



READ ALOUD

Themes: Culture, Family, Self-acceptance

Book Brief: Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand-new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab, a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and Faizah will find new ways to be strong.

Author(s):

Ibtihaj Muhammad
& S.K. Ali

Illustrator(s):

Hatem Aly

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the title. Ask students if they have ever seen a hijab, and explore in conversation.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they see, think, or wonder about the story.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Were you ever teased for doing something you love? How did that make you feel?"

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [vocabulary guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about how Faizah and Asiya showed courage in tough situations."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What are Faizah, Asiya, and their mother shopping for at the start?
- How does Asiya feel on her first day of wearing hijab? What clues tell you?
- What upsets Faizah in her school line?
- What does the boy near the sixth graders say he wants to do?
- What happens with Faizah and Asiya after school?



Think Aloud: "The boy just said something unkind about Asiya's hijab. I notice Faizah remembers what her mom told her, don't carry the hurtful words others say; they belong to the person who said them. I'm going to stop and think about that. It tells me Faizah is learning she can choose to let mean words go instead of holding onto them. That's one way a person shows courage."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How did Asiya react to the unkind words at school? How can you show courage when someone mistreats you or a person you love?

Extending Our Thinking: Have students use [RIF's Use this Concept Map](#) before, during, and after reading to deepen students' understanding of a concept, make connections, and build comprehension.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more titles by Ibtihaj Muhammad & S.K. Ali:
 - [The Kindest Red: A Story of Hijab and Friendship](#) (2023)