

The Proudest Blue

Overview

Author

Ibtihaj Muhammad with SK Ali

Story themes

Bullying
Diversity
Empathy
Family
Inclusion
New experiences
Prejudice
Religion
School
Spirituality

Curriculum links

Art and design
Drama
PSHE
RE

By the same author

The Kindest Red (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Alternative books

My Bindi by Gita Varadarajan and Archana Sreenivasan (Scholastic)
The Best Diwali Ever by Sonali Shah and Chaaya Prabhat (Scholastic)
Hair Love by Matthew Cherry and Vashti Harrison (Puffin)

Plot

Asiya goes with her Mama and sister, Faizah, to choose her first-day hijab. This is a pivotal experience in any Muslim girl's life, symbolising her transition into adulthood. She subsequently wears it to school for the first time as a testament to her faith and love of Allah. However, other pupils respond to seeing her wearing hijab by being unkind with both actions and words. Faizah cannot understand why others see Asiya's hijab differently.

About the children's book

The Proudest Blue tells the story of Asiya's new experience through her sister, Faizah's, eyes. It is an uplifting story, based on real-life experiences of the authors, about the bond between sisters, new experiences and of being proud of who you are. The important themes throughout are identity, courage and family.

About the teacher's guide

As well as detailed Guided and Shared reading, *Read & Respond: The Proudest Blue* provides the following activities to cover the English curriculum.

Word reading and spelling

- adding the suffixes 'er' and 'est' to spell longer words
- reading words with contractions and understanding the apostrophe
- creating compound words from the text

Comprehension

- predicting what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far
- designing a first-day hijab for Faizah based on what they already know
- sequencing sentences according to when events happened in the story

Composition

- writing capital and lower-case letters correctly
- adding adjectives to nouns from the story to write an expanded noun phrase
- writing a newspaper report about Asiya's first day of wearing hijab to school

Speaking and listening

- talking about how they felt the first time they did something
- acting out scenarios from the book in the role of the laughing/yelling boys, Asiya or Faizah
- using their voices in different ways, including shouting, whispering and laughing to reflect the way the characters felt during different parts of the story