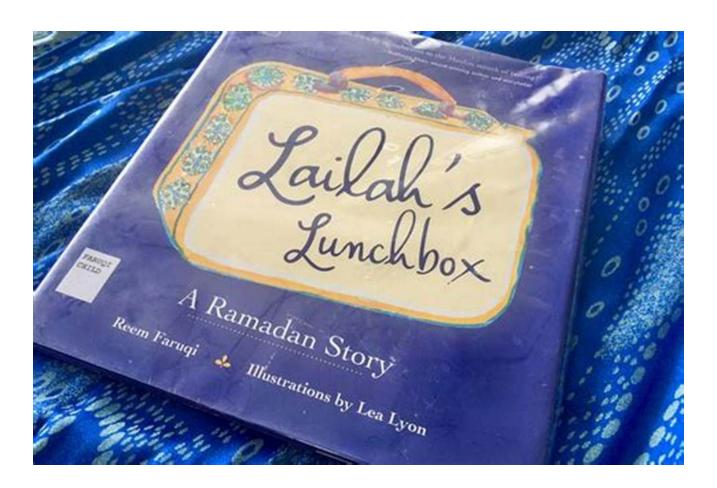
## The Heartwarming Tale of Lailah's Lunchbox During Ramadan

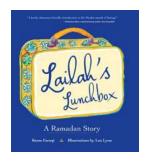


When the holy month of Ramadan arrives, it brings with it a sense of excitement, spirituality, and the delight of fasting for Muslims around the world. However, for young Lailah, a first grader living in the United States, Ramadan brings a unique challenge that ultimately leads to a heartwarming journey of faith, friendship, and acceptance.

### **Discovering Lailah's Dilemma**

As Lailah enters her first grade, she becomes increasingly aware of her Muslim identity. With Ramadan just around the corner, Lailah longs to participate fully in

the fasting and prayers like her family and Muslim community. However, she faces a dilemma – how can she manage to fast during school hours?



### Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story

by Reem Faruqi (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 4.9 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 45864 KB
Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 32 pages



In her journey to find a solution, Lailah's mother suggests she speak to her teacher, Mrs. Penworth. Filled with hope, she gathers her courage and shares her predicament with Mrs. Penworth, who not only listens empathetically but also comes up with a beautiful solution.

#### Lailah's Lunchbox

Amidst the vast diversity of her classmates and the backdrop of different cultures, Lailah's teacher ensures that Lailah doesn't feel left out during Ramadan. Mrs. Penworth suggests that Lailah brings her lunchbox to school. However, instead of enjoying her lunch, Lailah could write a note every day explaining her observance of Ramadan to her teacher.

Intrigued by the idea, Lailah decides to do just that. Every day, she includes a heartfelt note describing the significance of Ramadan, her fast, and her prayers. With each passing day, Lailah's note becomes a source of enlightenment not only for Mrs. Penworth but also for her classmates. It sparks curiosity, questions, and a desire to learn more about Ramadan and the Islamic faith.

### A Journey of Acceptance and Friendship

As Lailah shares her experiences through those heartfelt notes, her classmates begin to understand her Muslim identity and respect her observance of Ramadan. They embrace Lailah's diversity and celebrate her faith. From expressing their curiosity about Islamic traditions to bringing colorful pictures of mosques to school, their bond with Lailah grows stronger day by day.

Moreover, Mrs. Penworth's compassion and understanding create an inclusive environment for Lailah. The teacher encourages her classmates to acknowledge the importance of diversity and to appreciate everyone's individuality. Lailah's dilemma ultimately transforms into an opportunity to bring her classmates closer and foster a sense of empathy, acceptance, and friendship.

#### The Power of Lailah's Lunchbox

Lailah's story serves as a beautiful reminder of the power of empathy, love, and understanding. Her lunchbox becomes a symbol of unity, allowing her classmates to learn about Ramadan and simultaneously establish connections with other cultures and diverse religious practices.

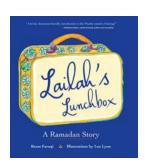
The impact of Lailah's Lunchbox extends beyond the classroom. As the notes Lailah includes in her lunchbox reach her classmates' homes, conversations about Ramadan ignite within families. Parents, siblings, and friends are eager to learn more about Islam, breaking down stereotypes, and fostering a sense of acceptance and harmony.

### **Lailah's Inspiring Journey**

Lailah's Lunchbox is more than just a heartwarming story. It is an inspiring tale that showcases the resilience of a young girl in maintaining her faith, the power of

friendship and acceptance in overcoming challenges, and the importance of educating others about different cultures and religious practices.

In , Lailah's Lunchbox is a valuable book that promotes inclusivity, understanding, and communal harmony. It educates readers about Ramadan, the Islamic faith, and highlights the significance of embracing diversity. It is a story that teaches us the power of acceptance, breaking barriers, and fostering friendships. So, embark on this wonderful journey with Lailah, and let her lunchbox become a beacon of hope for unity and understanding.



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\*2019 Daybreak Children's Picture Book Award -- Recognizing Muslim Women's Contributions to Literature\*

\*Notable Social Studies Trade Book For Young People 2016, a cooperative Project of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the Children's Book Council\*

- \*Featured Book of the Month, Anti-Defamation League\*
- \*American Library Association Notable Book for Children 2016\*

<sup>\*</sup>Skipping Stones Honor 2016\*

\*International Literacy Association Choices Reading List\*

Lailah is in a new school in a new country, thousands of miles from her old home, and missing her old friends. When Ramadan begins, she is excited that she is finally old enough to participate in the fasting but worried that her classmates won't understand why she doesn't join them in the lunchroom.

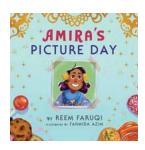
Lailah solves her problem with help from the school librarian and her teacher and in doing so learns that she can make new friends who respect her beliefs. This gentle, moving story from first-time author Reem Faruqi comes to life in Lea Lyon's vibrant illustrations. Lyon uses decorative arabesque borders on intermittent spreads to contrast the ordered patterns of Islamic observances with the unbounded rhythms of American school days.

#### Fountas & Pinnell Level N



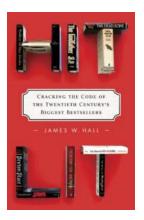
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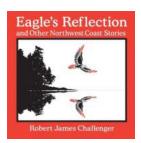
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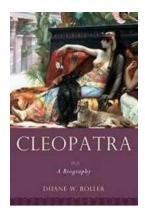
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