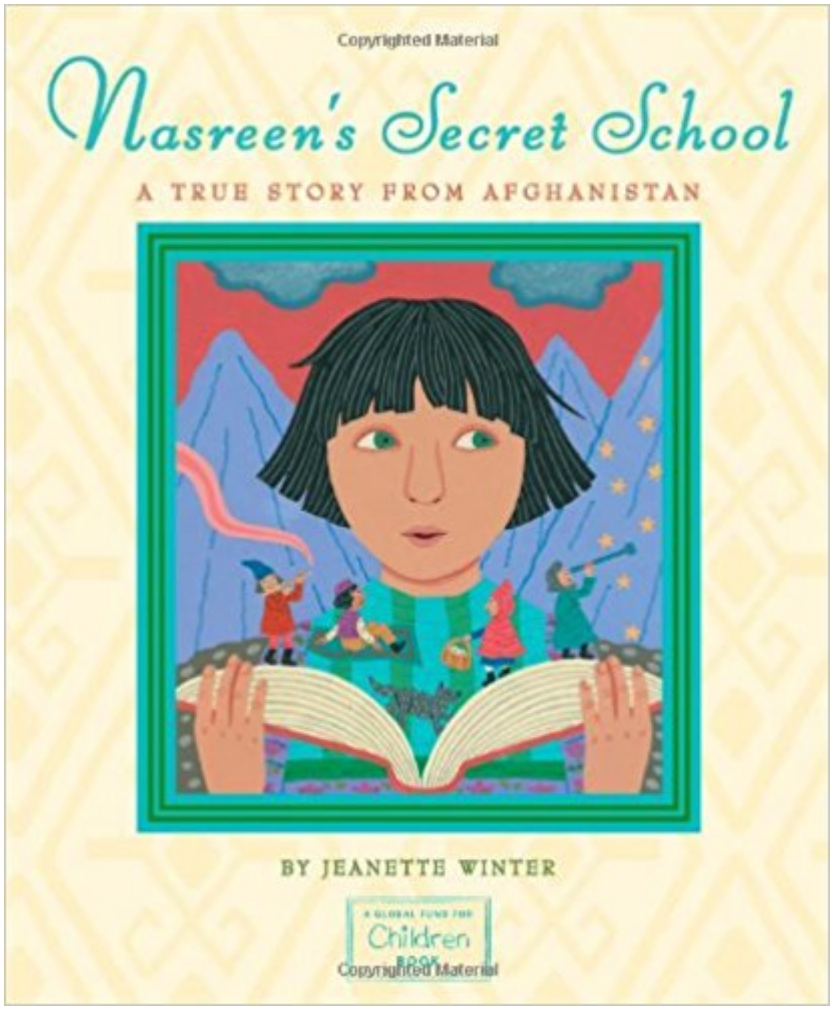
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Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story From Afghanistan



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Synopsis

Young Nasreen has not spoken a word to anyone since her parents disappeared. In despair, her grandmother risks everything to enroll Nasreen in a secret school for girls. Will a devoted teacher, a new friend, and the worlds she discovers in books be enough to draw Nasreen out of her shell of sadness? Based on a true story from Afghanistan, this inspiring book will touch readers deeply as it affirms both the life-changing power of education and the healing power of love.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD630L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Beach Lane Books (October 6, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416994378

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,315 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence #10 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #261 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Grade 2Ã¢â ¬â œ4Ã¢â ¬â •This story begins with an author's note that succinctly explains the drastic changes that occurred when the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan in 1996. The focus is primarily on the regime's impact on women, who were no longer allowed to attend school or leave home without a male chaperone, and had to cover their heads and bodies with a burqa. After Nasreen's parents disappeared, the child neither spoke nor smiled. Her grandmother, the story's narrator, took her to a secret school, where she slowly discovered a world of art, literature, and history obscured by the harsh prohibitions of the Taliban. As she did in The Librarian of Basra (Harcourt, 2005), Winter manages to achieve that delicate balance that is respectful of the seriousness of the experience, yet presents it in a way that is appropriate for young children.

Winter’s acrylic paintings make effective use of color, with dramatic purples and grays, with clouds and shadows dominating the scenes in which the Taliban are featured, and light, hopeful pinks both framing and featured in the scenes at school. This is an important book that makes events in a faraway place immediate and real. It is a true testament to the remarkable, inspiring courage of individuals when placed in such dire circumstances.Ã¢â ¬â •Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ END

"Winter celebrates the importance of education, and the reminder to Western children that it is a privilege worth fighting for is a powerful one."--The Horn Book Magazine"The personal nature of the story individualizes the conflict in Afghanistan...and the quiet, tightly focused approach helps make the situation accessible. The notion of school as a privilege revoked rather than a mandatory setnece may also elicit some thoughtful kid consideration."--The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s BooksÃ¢â ¬Å“WinterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s precise acrylics tell this story in matter-of-fact images: Taliban soldiers coming down the mountain to the city of Herat, Ã¢â ¬Å“where art and music and learning once flourishedÃ¢â ¬Â•; a girl called Nasreen sitting at home, silent since her parents disappeared, forbidden to attend school; the grandmother, who tells the story, taking her to a secret girlsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ school in a private home. The studentsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ brightly colored headscarves stand in for their bravery and eagerness to learn.Ã¢â ¬Â•--The New York Times Book Review"Winter tells another powerful story, based on true events, of an individual activist whose singular courage brings social change...Winter artfully distills enormous concepts into spare, potent sentences that celebrate HeratÃ¢â ¬â„¢s rich cultural, Islamic history...even as they detail the harrowing realities of Taliban rule. And in her signature style of deceptively simple compositions and rich, opaque colors, WinterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s acrylic paintings give a palpable sense of both NasreenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s everyday terror and the expansive joy that she finds in learning."--Booklist

Something about this book really clicked with my 6-year-old - she’s a somewhat reluctant reader, but wants to read this one again and again! We had gotten it from the library, but because of how much she loved it, I finally ordered the book. Sweet story that exposes children to the struggles of kids around the world in a very gentle way. Wonderful book!

I bought this as a gift for my friend from Afghanistan, who was one of the women who taught girls secretly in her home during the Taliban occupation. She cried and cried when she saw and read this book. I am so happy to have found it.

A glimpse of life in a troubled part of the world. Best, I would think, for informed children at least 9 or so as it is a difficult life for the subjects, with parental loss involved.Education’s benefit illustrated.

This was a good story. Somewhat of a tearjerker. Such a short story but with such a big impact. I purchased the book to find out what it was about since my son’s third-grade class was going to be reading it together.

I used this story in my 7th grade classroom as a tool for helping students identify problems and solutions. This book was a quick read for them and they were able to understand the story and the skill. They all really enjoyed the book and it had them generate a lot of questions about the outside world!

I watch the morning news while getting ready for work. While with me during those morning routines, my first-grader had many questions I did not feel I could adequately and appropriately answer. This is a terrific book for introducing the idea to elementary school children, foreign and horrible as it may be, that there are places where going to school is dangerous. In addition to planting the seeds of appreciation for her own education and her luck in being born when/where she was, the idea of being able to defy evil by learning to read is very exciting. There is also a girl and her grandmother who are not helpless after being left alone when her parents disappear. That part of the story was not nearly as scary to her as I thought it would be. In subtext, the fear of the "bad guys" is offset by the others who endanger themselves to allow the school to succeed and the students to be safe. This is a terrific book that I will start giving as a gift to my elementary-aged friends and relatives.

Sad and touching. I want the world to be better.

You should be able to zoom in more it was kind of hard to read and that’s pretty much it other than that it was good

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