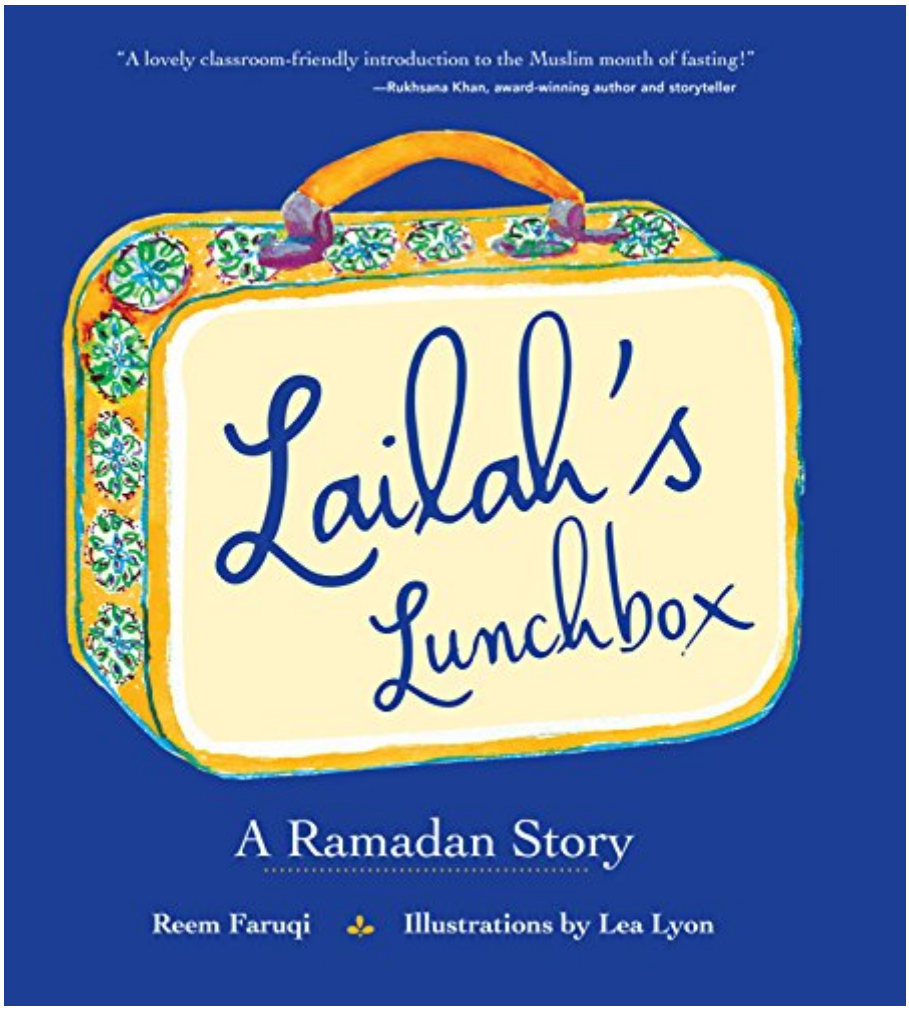
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Lailah's Lunchbox



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Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read the story to my daughter on the morning of April 18th, a morning many of us will remember with the Houston floods. Time had stopped in our household, schools were closed and the children sought extra outlets. And so I read the story, though admittedly I was distracted by the flooding, my own pending work deliverables and a unexpected day off schedule. Later that evening, as the

waters abated and we readied for bed, my daughter asked me to reread the story. Odd, I thought. DidnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t we read this book just 10 hours earlier. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Ammi, please read it again.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• And so I consented, knowing full well that I had not given it the attention it deserved in the first pass. This time many things caught my eyeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œthe beautiful water colored illustrations, the anxiety of the little girl, but also the power to overcome and find solutions. As I read, I watched my daughterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s face. It was as though she was nodding, agreeing with each page, identifying with little Laila and the trials she faced. As I closed the book a second time in one very long, wet day, I realized just how much the story had helped and inspired my own little girl. Apart from giving this book to the local public library, weÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll also be sharing it with her 2nd grade class next week in the local public school. WeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll combine it with a simple Ramadan craft for the class. I pray that LailaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Lunchbox reaches many and is of benefit, as it has been for us.

This is a lovely book. It is relatable to children not only of the Muslim faith, but children from other faiths whose traditions do not follow the U.S. calender which is largely based on Christian holidays. I am reminded of a Jewish family living in rural Tn whose mama sent a note stating that the kids would be absent for some Jewish holiday. Those kids were the first known Jews. And really, at some point in our lives we are all different in some way. It is empowering to see a story about learning to talk about and handle differences and the emotions from those experiences.

Perfect Ramadan book for kids of all ages! My toddler loved it and asked me to re-read it several times and we talked about Laila’s emotions throughout the book. It also reminded me of when I was the only Muslim in my school and had to fast and I felt left out so my dad came to pick me up during lunch time so I don’t feel bad. Very well-written, simple, yet emotional. I’m an educator and highly recommend this book to be added to school libraries. Also if your child attends a non-Muslim school, this book is great to read to to the classroom to help students understand what Ramadan is.

Really great book. Wonderful explanation of Ramadan fasting. Easy read and excellent knowledge based information children and adults can relate to. Makes a big different when the author practicing the topic of the book. Can’t say enough about it.

This book made it a little easier for my young son to relate to Ramadan. Now he can’t stop talking about Lailah! I loved how the book not only talks about how Lailah experiences Ramadan, but also

how she copes with adjusting to a new city and school. The illustrations were beautifully detailed and helped bring the words and Lailah's emotions to life. I wish I had this book as a child because it addresses both the excitement and sometimes apprehension that Muslim children often feel during Ramadan in the U.S. A wonderful addition to any home or school library.

Lailah felt like I did in school, unsure about how to explain important things to her teacher and classmates. Her school librarian gave her a helpful suggestion which allowed her to solve her problem. The book will not only help kids understand Ramadan but also give many kids a chance to identify with Lailah's dilemma of how to tell people she does not know very well about something she cares a lot about. I could see good discussions in the classroom coming from both themes.

I purchased this book as a gift for my granddaughter. Since she is only a 4 year old child who barely reads, my intention was to read it for her; therefore, I did so myself first to be better prepared and for curiosity about the book itself. I must say it was quite a delightful read, even for grandpas! Aside from it being such an interesting and very well written traditional classic with an introduction, body and conclusion, it was even more moving when I learned towards the end that it was based on the actual childhood story of the author herself. She simply, yet clearly, illustrated what a lot of the younger Muslim generations (and even some adults) go through in trying to explain to their fellow students (or co-workers) of other faiths about why they are not eating or even "just drinking water" with them during snack or lunch breaks.

This is a wonderful, touching book...a beautiful story beautifully illustrated. It has a very positive message for children. I would recommend this for children of all faiths, as it teaches them to have courage to observe their beliefs and explain them to others with pride.

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