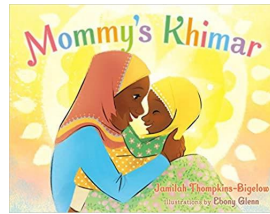


Raab/Goodwin Book Synopsis

Thompkins-Bigelow, Jamilah
"Mommy's Khimar"
Illustrated by Ebony Glenn

Grades: PreK – 3

Mommy's Khimar celebrates the unbridled happiness of one Muslim child, her family and members of her Muslim community. Written in the first person voice of a young African American girl, the story explores her fascination with her mother's khimars. She spends a busy day wrapped up in her mother's colorful head scarf, feeling her mother's love with everything she tries on. The term "khimar" may be new to many who know the headscarf worn by Muslim women as a "hijab", but khimar is the preferred term for many African American Muslims.



Themes:

- multi-faith, intergenerational families, loving each other, accepting and respecting their religious differences and choices
- heads coverings worn by both men and women
- dynamic of a typical African American Muslim family

Concepts/Vocabulary:

- Khimar, hijab
- Colorful, flowing, stripes, patterns, polka dots, tassels, beads, sparkle
- Queen with a golden train, plaits, braids, bumpy crown
- Shooting star, superhero, golden wings
- Bristly beard, coconut oil, cocoa butter, cinnamon
- Mosque, Assalamu alaikum – greeting, meaning peace be upon you

Pre-reading:

- Today we are going to read a story about a girl and her family and the special bond she shares with them. Pay attention and look for what connects them.

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During Reading:

- Read through the book once without pausing so children can hear the language and descriptive vocabulary.
- Read a second time, pausing to clarify concepts and vocabulary.
- Eg, What are the words used to describe Mommy's khimar? How is the feel of her Father's beard described? What is a mosque?

Post-reading:

- What is a khimar? Is the same or different than a hijab?
- Who wears it? African American Muslim women
- Where/when is it sometimes not worn? At home, at night
- What makes the grandmother different from the girl and her parents? religious beliefs
- What binds the family together? Love, acceptance, respect