



Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors

Hena Khan , Mehrdokht Amini (Illustrator)

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Magnificently capturing the colorful world of Islam for the youngest readers, this breathtaking and informative picture book celebrates Islam's beauty and traditions. From a red prayer rug to a blue hijab, everyday colors are given special meaning as young readers learn about clothing, food, and other important elements of Islamic culture, with a young Muslim girl as a guide. Sure to inspire questions and observations about world religions and cultures, *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns* is equally at home in a classroom reading circle as it is being read to a child on a parent's lap.

Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors Details

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Author : Hena Khan , Mehrdokht Amini (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors for online ebook

Bina says

Wonderful picture book with GORGEOUS Illustrations!

Cora says

Beautiful! One of my students bought this at our Book fair and I read it to the class. Lovely illustrations, a message of acceptance and diversity, and poetic.

Cathy says

I found this because my friend Sarah reviewed it. I have dear friends who are Muslims and I'm always looking for ways to understand their culture, so I reserved it from the library to see if it might be a good book for their three year-old. The book is quite lovely, the pictures have a lot of details and shapes and colors that make them really feel like they celebrate Muslim culture and family life. The simple text, so similar to other color books (Blue is the hijab Mom likes to wear, It's a scarf she uses to cover her hair. Brown is a date, plump and sweet, during Ramadan it's my favorite treat,) is great for making Muslim children feel like they have something to read that is suited for their culture, and that is also simply education for children of other cultures. (And adults.) The one concern I saw in another review was whether the portrayal of people in the book would be OK with Muslims, since there is a rule in the religion against portraying people in art. There are apparently different beliefs about that. Some believe that is only in religious art, similar to in the Jewish religion. What I do know is that when I showed the book to "my" kids (the nine and ten year-olds), they already knew it well and were excited to see that I had it, so it's obviously OK with their family. And the book's artist grew up in Iran, so she probably has a good sense of what's appropriate as well. So, it's a lovely basic color primer, if you want to get a gift that's a little different, I recommend it.

????? says

it's so beautiful , i was happy reading it

Jillian Heise says

A color book about much more. Items important in the authors' Muslim faith are described on the pages with beautiful illustrations, and defined in a glossary at the back. A lovely book that should be included in all elementary school libraries.

Elizabeth says

Amina's Voice was my first experience reading Hena Khan, and after falling in love with it I knew I'd want to read more from her. I am so glad that I did!

Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns is filled with some lovely simple rhymes that make for easy reading, really great colour imagery, great representation for Muslim kids, and a beautiful introduction to the culture for non-Muslim kids. The illustrations are especially beautiful as well, and I look forward to seeing more from the illustrator.

This picture book is one I won't hesitate to recommend.

Bibi Larson says

Very cute book - i loved it!!

Sandy Brehl says

In and of itself, this is a gorgeous concept book, using fluent and simple rhymed text to feature both color names and Muslim vocabulary. It's far too easy to see this as a charming offering for Muslim children, but it deserves a much wider audience. Children around the world so often have books focused on their own culture but ALSO have experiences with books in other languages and from other cultures. Sadly, in the US we so often direct readers only to titles from their specific culture, except perhaps in a study unit or when attending a specialty school.

This would have been of great value to share, with anyone of any age, even before 9/11. Now, more than ever, it offers a sense of acceptance, familiarity, "normalcy" if you will, about Muslim people, practices, and images in a time when stereotyping and misconceptions dominate the public forum. Glossary at the back is accessible and enhances the content in the rhyming verse.

Apart from all that, it is a beautiful homage to the universality of family.

Yasmeen says

Grade/Interest level: Primary

Reading level: n/a

Genre: Multicultural, Picture book

Main Characters: young Muslim girl and her family

Setting: n/a

POV: young Muslim girl

This book is a Muslim book of colors that is told in a simple melodic rhyme. It is told through the eyes of a young Muslim girl who tells the reader about her religion, Islam. She talks about all the traditions that many readers may not know much about. The illustrations supplement the story really well. They are all influenced by Islamic art.

Classroom Use/Theme: I feel like this book would work well with any age group even though the reading level is obviously for the primary grades. Unfortunately, I haven't really seen books on Islam in the classrooms that I have observed at. I feel like in these times, students can definitely benefit from hearing stories about different cultures/religions, especially because of the negativity that is spewed from the media. It would be great to use around Ramadan or the Muslim holidays of Eid to make students aware of different cultures. This book would be a great read aloud for all students because of the content and beautiful illustrations.

Nisha says

I am nearly as much of a novice toward Islam as my 2-year old son. This is the ideal first book to introduce both of us to the Islamic culture. Upon opening the first pages, I was stunned to see such beautiful and colorful artwork - it makes sense, since at its bare bones, this is a color primer. Each color is delightfully displayed and introduces an aspect of Islamic way of life - orange is the mehendi ... and brown is the dates. The lyrical quality of the text was easy to follow and simple enough to catch the interest of a rambunctious toddler. It has detail, without flooding too many concepts on a young brain. There is no special story, just follows a little Muslim girl as she shows us a bit of her normal life. It's so simple, yet powerful enough to be relatable.

Amanda Nye says

1.) Text-to-World: There are many families in the community that are Muslim and wear traditional hijabs. Many times, students question this dress because it is different, so this is a great way to introduce this custom to students.

2.) This book exposes children to a variety of characteristics of the Muslim faith/culture. The book addresses the different important traditions and components that are unique to the Muslim community. Through the use of colors, the author is able to introduce different items that are used to support the culture. The author discusses the hijab, mosque, kufi, Allah, Ramadan, henna, etc. in simple terms and rhyming so that students understand the important aspects of the Muslim culture.

3.)

Remembering: What is the traditional hat worn by Muslim men called?

Understanding: Explain why the title of the book is "Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns"

Applying: What questions would you ask a person of Muslim faith about their culture?

Analyzing: How would you compare your family traditions to the traditions of the Muslim culture?

Evaluating: What traditions or characteristics of the Muslim culture do you like?

Creating: Draw a picture of a tradition or celebration that you and your family partake in.

Sarah says

A book filled with beautiful illustrations that explore the world of Islam and Muslims. I think this would be

a good book to read to children to introduce them to different races and cultures.

Jim Ereksn says

Interesting genre issues here. The book is clearly intended to present an insider's definitions of Muslim concepts. The device of presenting each fact through a color has the feel of a nursery rhyme, but not any one in specific. Khan's sense of rhythm is convincing this way. Amini's illustrations are unique in style with a textured background for each image, and an airbrushed look as well as hints of collaged cloth and photography. But I think this is all computer drawn. I can't say exactly why, and the end sheets don't say anything about the art process. Text colors, placement, and font sizes all done by Amelia May Mack, graphic designer, emphasize each featured concept on each page.

Not knowing much about Islam, I wondered as I read the book about the question of presenting images of people. In particular, I remember reading about hotel and travel brochures for companies having all the people extracted from them for publication in Saudi Arabia. The aniconist principle in Islam is more widely interpreted than I thought, but when the wikipedia article started naming off examples of exceptions I recognized how it works. It's worth a look!

Jessica says

With all the talk recently about windows and mirrors in children's literature, I love this book for encouraging my Muslim students to share about their culture and for helping my non-Muslim students understand some of the beautiful traditions and practices detailed in this book. Even though it says it's a book of colors, it's so much more than that. The illustrations are absolutely stunning and beautifully detailed, and my students poured over them for days after we read and discussed this book together. Definitely recommend for sharing in elementary classrooms!

Fatima says

This is a very simple informational book that can be used to introduce children to Islam and to teach them about the culture as well as vocabulary used by the Muslim community. The author is teaching colors and linking them to objects that are common in the Muslim community. It mentions key words and places such as Mecca, hijab, mosque, Ramadan, kufi and Allah. In a very simplistic way the author and illustrator use colors to inform the reader of what the life of a Muslim family could look like. The characters all belong to one family and throughout the pages each character shows a color and links it to one of the concepts. At the end of the book the author gives a glossary that explains each of these words that might be unfamiliar and also how to pronounce them.

This book could be read to children as young as 3 because it is teaching them the colors by having vibrant illustrations. It could also be read in Kindergarten and maybe 1st grade with the goal of teaching students about different cultures. The author does a really good job of using every day events or objects that a Muslim would come in contact with and emphasises its color. This not only teaches children of their colors but also that is the norm for others. It mentions the clothes, festivals, and concepts that Muslims believe in such as Zakat (charity).

The illustrations are big, bold and colorful which would keep the children's attention. The main characters in this book are Muslim but in the background of the pictures people belong to different ethnic groups and different cultures, we know this because of the difference in the dressing style. The language used in this book is accurate because a few Arabic words are used and the definitions are given at the end of the book. Overall I like this book because while trying to teach colors the author also teaches the reader about the Muslim culture and traditions.

The only stereotype or issue I see is that the author seems to focus on the Middle Eastern families and so a lot of the objects or clothing mentioned is not worn by all Muslims but rather just the group of people who belong to that country. There is a lot of diversity within the Muslim community but this book over generalizes.
