

Mommy's Khimar

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Identities & Themes

- Feelings
- Identity affirmation
- Black/African American
- Multigenerational Relationships
- Religion/Faith

Teacher Reflection Questions

1. If you are not Muslim, what are your personal feelings or beliefs about Islam and Muslims in our country? If you are Muslim, what are your feelings about how Islam and Muslims are portrayed in mainstream society?
2. How do you make sure that every child, no matter their culture or religion, feels safe and welcome in your classroom?
3. How can you counteract negative messages children are getting about Muslims and other non-Christian religions/faith traditions?

Background Information for Teacher

This book offers an opportunity for children to see a young Muslim girl without societal biases. It offers a “mirrors” opportunity for Muslim children who rarely see themselves or their families portrayed in a positive light and a “windows” opportunity for non-Muslim children to see the similarities and differences to their own lives.

When talking to children about cultural differences, it is important to stay at an age appropriate level. Young children do not deeply understand differences of religion or culture, but they do ingest negative messages put out by society about Muslim people in America.

See also the **Religion/Faith Primer** in the guide.

Vocabulary

Hijab—A hijab refers to the act of covering up; commonly used to describe headscarves worn by women, which can include a khimar or burka.

Burka—This is the least revealing of all hijabs. A woman's entire body and face are covered with a mesh screen to see out of.

Khimar—A khimar is a long, cape-like veil that covers the head, neck, and shoulders and drapes to the lower back.

Anti-Bias Education Tenets

- Empathy & Understanding
- Healthy Complex Identities
- Respect Across Differences
- Notice, Name, & Reject Bias
- Responsiveness & Action

Social-Emotional Learning

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Responsible Decision Making
- Relationship Skills

Read this to the students before reading the book:

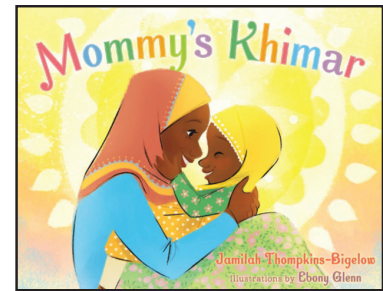
Today we are going to read about a little girl who plays dress up with her mother's head scarves. Her mommy wears her khimar because it is part of her Muslim religion. When the little girl wears her mommy's khimar, she feels her mommy's love.

Discussion Questions (essential questions bolded)

1. **What did the little girl call her mother's head scarf? What name did her teacher use for it?**
2. What did the little girl smell when she wore the khimar? **How did she feel when she wore it?**
3. **Why did the mommy wear a khimar? (It is part of her religious belief). What did you notice about the grandma?**
4. **What did the little girl pretend when she wore the khimar? What would you pretend if you wore one?**
5. **Are there special items of clothing in your family that you like to wear or play with?**

Journal Prompts & Extension Activities

Show pictures of different religious and cultural dress. Make sure you have pictures around the room that show these differences so each child (and family) can have ongoing windows/mirrors experiences.



Literacy Connections

- Realistic Fiction
- Identify details in the text
- Identify theme or main message
- Character point of view
- Use illustrations/pictures/photos to gain information
- Make inferences
- Make text connections (to self, text, the world)
- Vocabulary in context
- Figurative Language

SEL Standards

- S2.7 Demonstrates growing interest in and awareness of similarities and differences between self and others
- S6.11 Shows increasing understanding and appreciation of the perspectives of peers