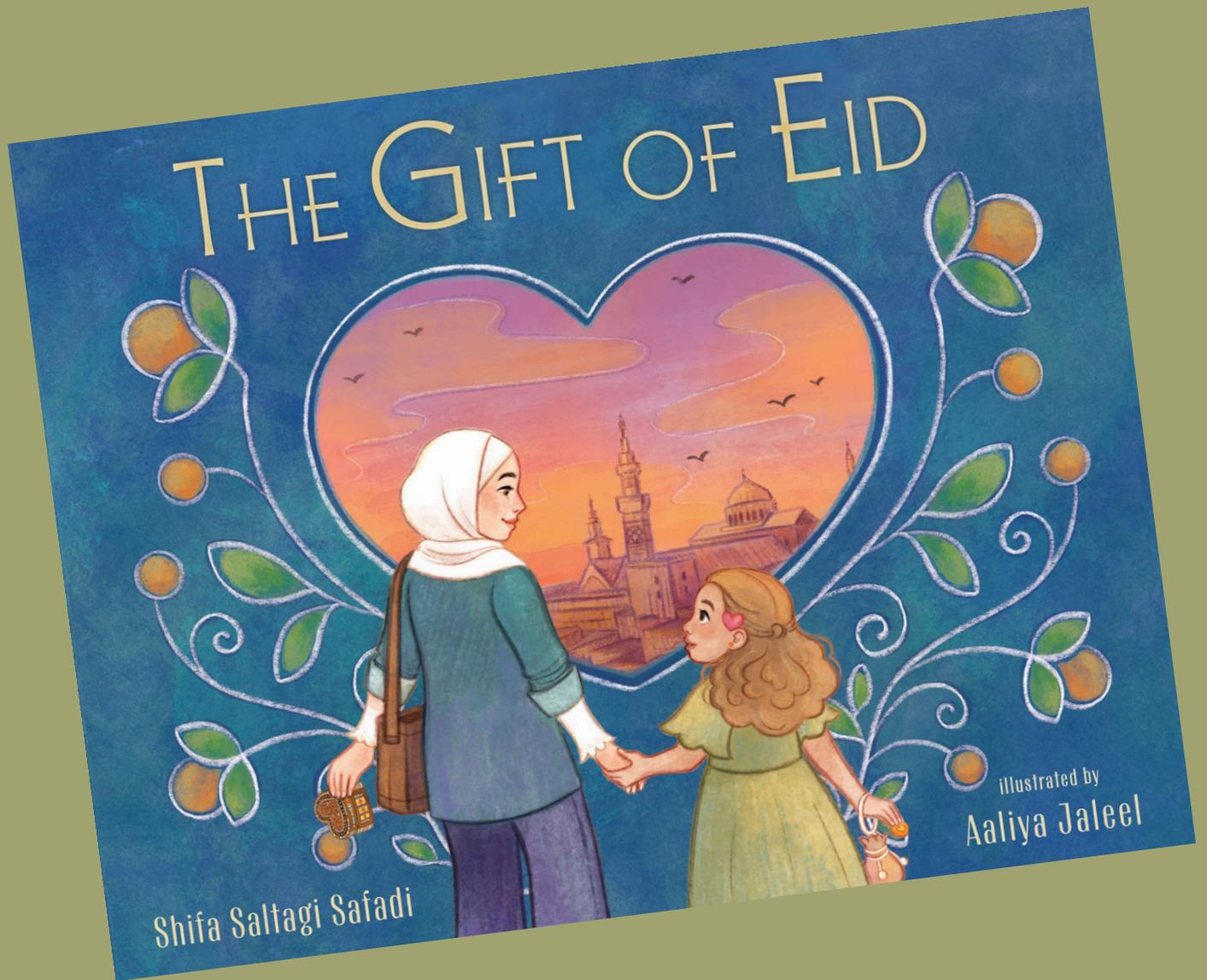


EDUCATOR GUIDE

THE GIFT OF EID

Ages 4-8



HOLIDAY HOUSE



BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

ALL ABOUT THIS BOOK:

A retelling of the Gift of the Magi, set against the backdrop of the Great Mosque of Damascus.

With Baba gone, Yasmine doesn't have enough money to buy Mama's Eid gift and can't think of anything she wants for herself when Mama asks. While Mama's haggling with the baker, she gets an idea. When she gets lost in the Souq, Yasmine realizes that true Eid joy comes from being together.

Set in the famous Souk Al-Hamidiyah and the Great Mosque of Damascus, this heartfelt story offers a Muslim background to one of the best-loved stories of all time.

AUTHOR



SHIFA SALTAGI SAFADI is the author of Kareem Between and several picture books, including The Gift of Eid. She has a bachelor's degree in English literature, teaches ELA at a local middle school, and reviews Muslim books on her blog, Muslim Mommy Blog. Shifa was born in Syria and immigrated to the US with her parents as a young girl. She lives near Chicago with her husband and four children.

Find her on Instagram @MuslimMommyBlog

ILLUSTRATOR



Aaliya Jaleel is a Sri Lankan American illustrator who loves illustrating bold, bright color palettes and memorable characters. She greatly enjoys working on fun patterns and textile designs that are heavily inspired by classical South Asian and Islamic art. Her books include This Is Why We Pray, Ali and the Moon, and Hannah and the Ramadan Gift. Aaliya is also a designer for animation. She resides in Dallas, Texas, with her husband and sweet cat, Sterling.

WHAT IS EID?

All About Eid

Eid is the Arabic literal word for holiday (it is used to describe birthdays- Eid Meelad- and even Christian holidays by Arab Christians), but Eid (capitalized) is most commonly referencing the two major Muslim holidays- Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha.

Both Eids commence the first morning with waking up early, taking baths and perfuming, wearing the best outfits, and going to the Masjid for Eid prayers. Prayers are preceded by a special chant by the whole congregation expressing gratitude to God for the blessing of celebrations.

The next few days are filled with visiting friends and families, and areas like Souq AlHamadiyah in Damascus, Syria are filled with people shopping, foods and sweets being sold, and decorative lanterns swinging from hanging garlands.

Eid Al-Fitr

Eid Al-Fitr means the holiday of FEASTING and the reason feasting is so important for this holiday is due to the month of Ramadan and fasting preceding this three-day holiday.

It is common practice for these three days to be full of lots of family gatherings where gifts and sweets are handed out, especially to young ones, and gratitude is expressed to God for the blessing of strength to finish the fasting of Ramadan.

Eid al-Adha:

Eid al-Adha, or translated from Arabic- The Holiday of Sacrifice, is the second major holiday, and in fact is nicknamed "The bigger Eid", as it is the longer one- lasting four days.

Eid al-Adha lands on the tenth day of the month of the holy pilgrimage, Dhul-Hijah- the last month in the lunar Islamic Calendar, and the focus is often more during this holiday about sacrifice than feasting.

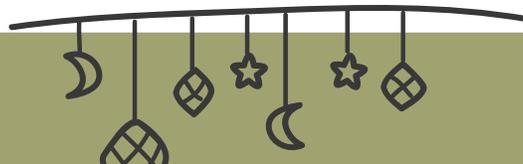
Traditional oral stories tell of Prophet Ibrahim, peace be upon him, asked by God to make a sacrifice, similar to the Judeo-Christian Biblical story.

And as a reward for his loyalty and faith, God sent him a ram and saved his son.

Every year, in remembrance of that prophetic story, Muslims all over the world travel to Mecca to do a pilgrimage similar to the one Prophet Ibrahim did- and even if not traveling, many on this day make their own sacrifices of lamb and goats, and hand out meat to the poor, as well as to family members and friends.

This Eid tends to be more about spending money that could have been used to buy something for yourself and instead gifting others with it.

And just like Yasmine,
I hope readers find joy in giving.



GEOGRAPHY

Can you guess where Syria is on the world map?



Facts about Syria

Syria is in the Middle East.

Syria is predominately Muslim, but there are also Christians, Druze, Kurds and more ethnicities and religions.

Syrian currency is in Lira, the Syrian pound.

Syrians speak mostly Arabic

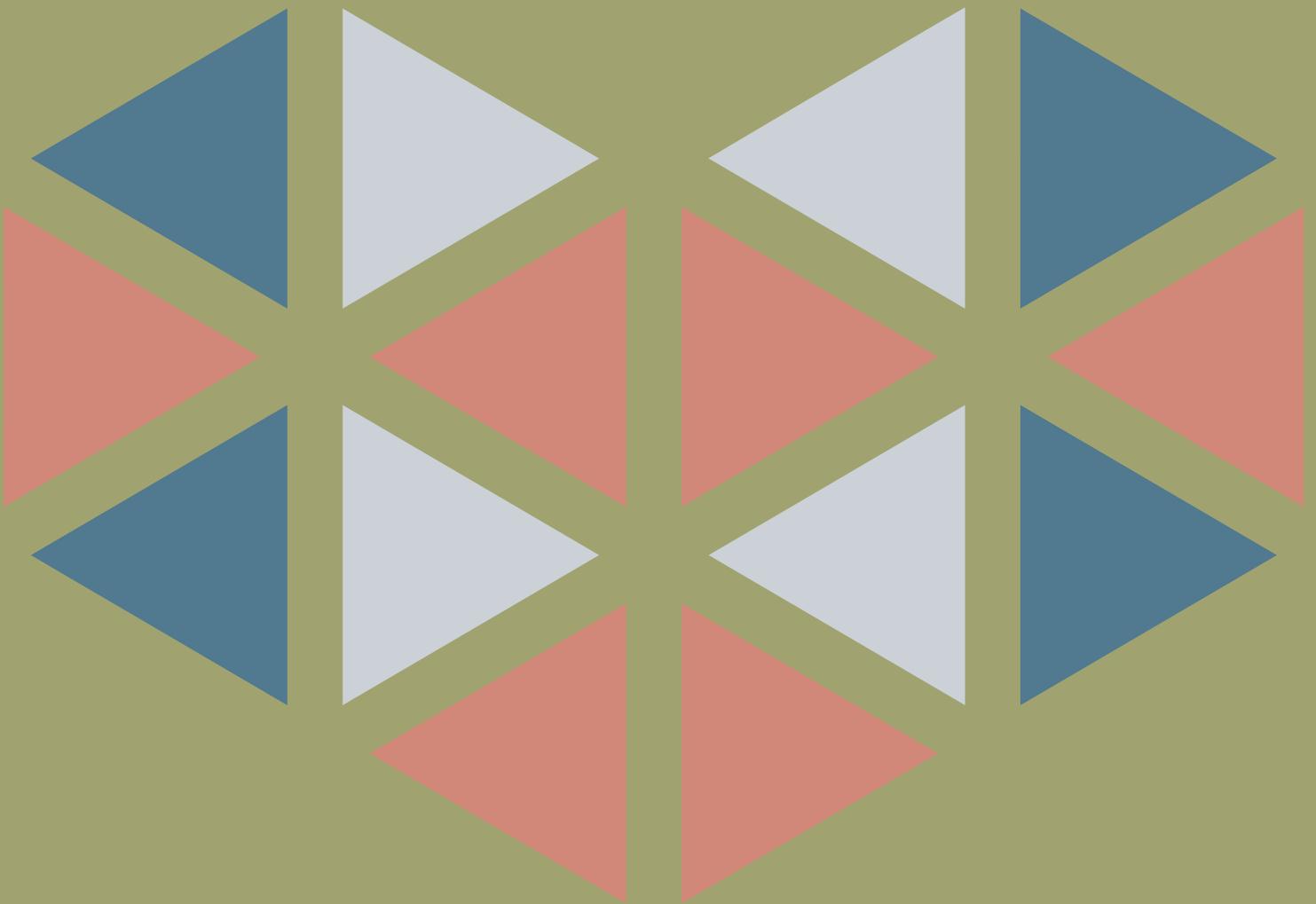
Syria was in a civil war from 2011-2024



ART TIME

WHAT SHAPES MAKE UP THIS MOSAIC?

Can you cut and then glue the pieces back together of this mosaic arrangement?



LET'S WRITE OR DRAW

WHAT WOULD YOU GIFT A LOVED ONE?

A spiral-bound notebook with a blue cover and a white page. The spiral binding is blue and is located at the top of the page. The page is blank and ready for writing or drawing.

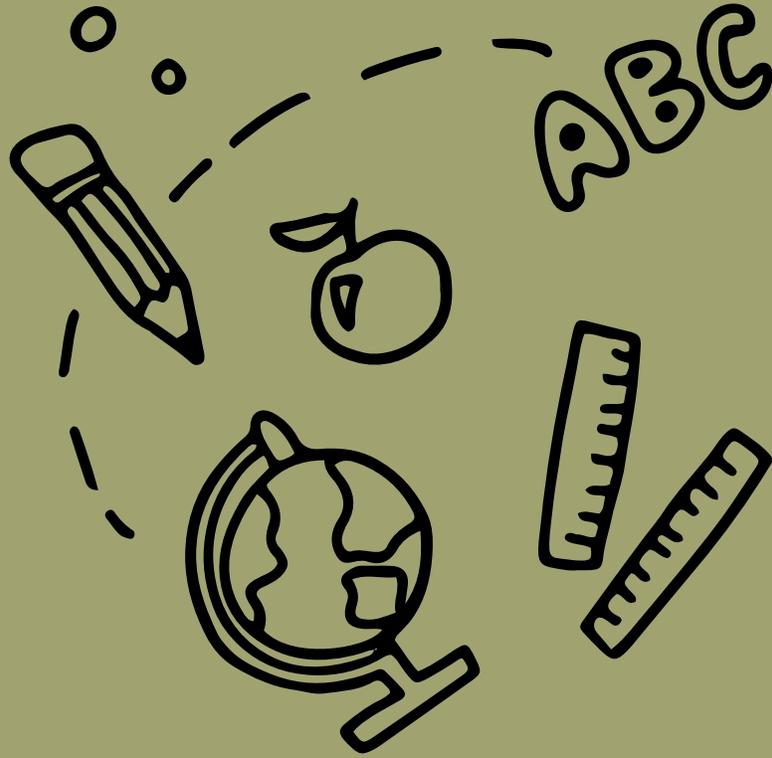
LET'S COUNT

Yasmine does not have enough money for a gift. How many liras does she need?



$$150 + \underline{\quad\quad} = 500$$

Solve this equation



Loved this guide?

Check out the author's website to
schedule a special storytime
and/or school visit at
shifasafadi.com



Perfect for Arab Heritage month or Ramadan lessons!