EDUCATOR GUIDE

THE KAABAH CAT

Ages 4-8



HarperCollinsPublishers

ALL ABOUT THIS BOOK:

Zayd's heart wishes for one thing. During his family's pilgrimage to Mecca, the place where dreams come true, Zayd prays for just that. But the purr-fect answer to his duaa slips through his fingers as quickly as it appears. This sets Zayd on an adventure around the Kaabah, the house of Allah. Will Zayd get what he wants? Find out in this joyful tale!

AUTHOR



SHIFA SALTAGI SAFADI is the National Book Award winning author of Kareem Between, the Amina Banana series, and several picture books, including The Gift of Eid. She has a bachelor's degree in English literature, is a former ELA teacher, and is passionate about spreading a love of reading through storytimes and school visits. 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 @shifasaltagisafadi

ILLUSTRATOR



Nabila Adani lives in Jakarta and enjoys illustrating different cultures around the world. She originally studied Industrial Product Design at Bandung Institute of Technology earning her degree in 2013, yet found her way into illustration later in life. She briefly worked as a product designer in Japan and Indonesia before moving to the United States to study children's book illustration.
Now, back in Jakarta, she also holds art classes and grows mini libraries for kids near her home.

ALL ABOUT UMRAH

In the book, Zayd goes on Umrah to Mecca and asks a wish, or duaa to Allah, for a pet cat.

Umrah is a mini-pilgrimage to Mecca done by Muslims anytime of the year, except during Hajj time, which is the big pilgrimage done once a year.

A popular time for Umrah is Ramadan, when Millions of Muslims go to Mecca to perform the pilgrimage, seeking the reward of a big pilgrimage because a hadith, or prophetic oral tradition, mentions this as a reward of Umrah done during this special holy month.

The steps of Umrah include going to Mecca, circling the Kaabah seven times, then walking between the Safa and Marwa hills seven times.

Umrah is concluded with a cutting (or shaving) of hair.

Part of the pillars of Islam is Hajj, and Muslims aim to do Hajj once in their lifetime at least. Umrah is often done multiple times if one can afford it, because it can be done many times of the year, and has less steps, and is thus easier to do.

Umrah is a special time that Muslims love to make duaa, or a special prayer, where they ask Allah for their wishes.

And like Zayd, many go home feeling certainty in their heart that their dreams will come true.



QUESTIONS!

After reading the story, answer as many questions as you can!

1. What is Zayd's wish when he gets to Mecca?
2. What is the mini pilgrimage to Mecca called?
3. What is the cube structure in the middle of Mecca called?
4. When Zayd sees the cat, what is his first reaction? Is this the right thing to do?
5. What does Zayd ask Baba about the cat?
6. Why do you think Zayd wanted the cat as a pet so badly?
7. Is it right to take cats home if you find them in public?
8. What do you think the cat wanted when Zayd picked it up?
9. What does Zayd learn from Baba when he asks to take the cat home?
10. What do you think the answer to Zayd's duaa ended up being?
11. What does Zayd eat when they are done Umrah?
12. What does Zayd learn from his parents after Umrah?
13. How would you take care of animals in nature? How would you take care of a pet cat?
14. Why is it important to respect animals' homes?
15. What sneak peek at the end of the book shows what likely happened in Zayd's future?



GEOGRAPHY

Can you guess where Mecca is on the world map?



Facts about Mecca

Mecca is in the Middle East, in a country called Saudi Arabia.

Mecca is the first holiest site for Muslims.

Mecca is where Muslims pray to, as it contains the cubic structure called the Kaabah.

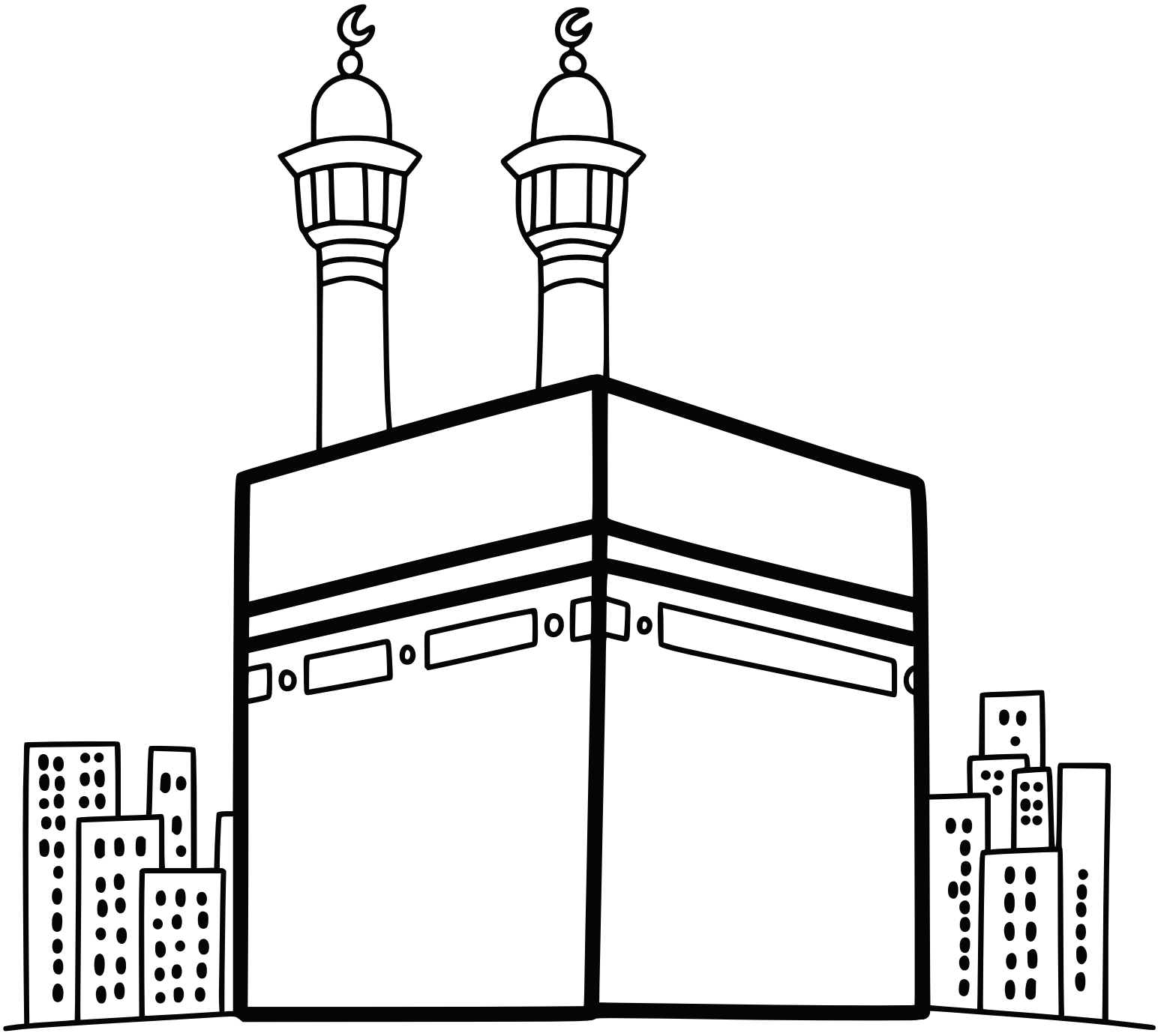
Mecca is where the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, was born.



ART TIME

CAN YOU COLOR THE KAABAH?

Use the colors black and gold!

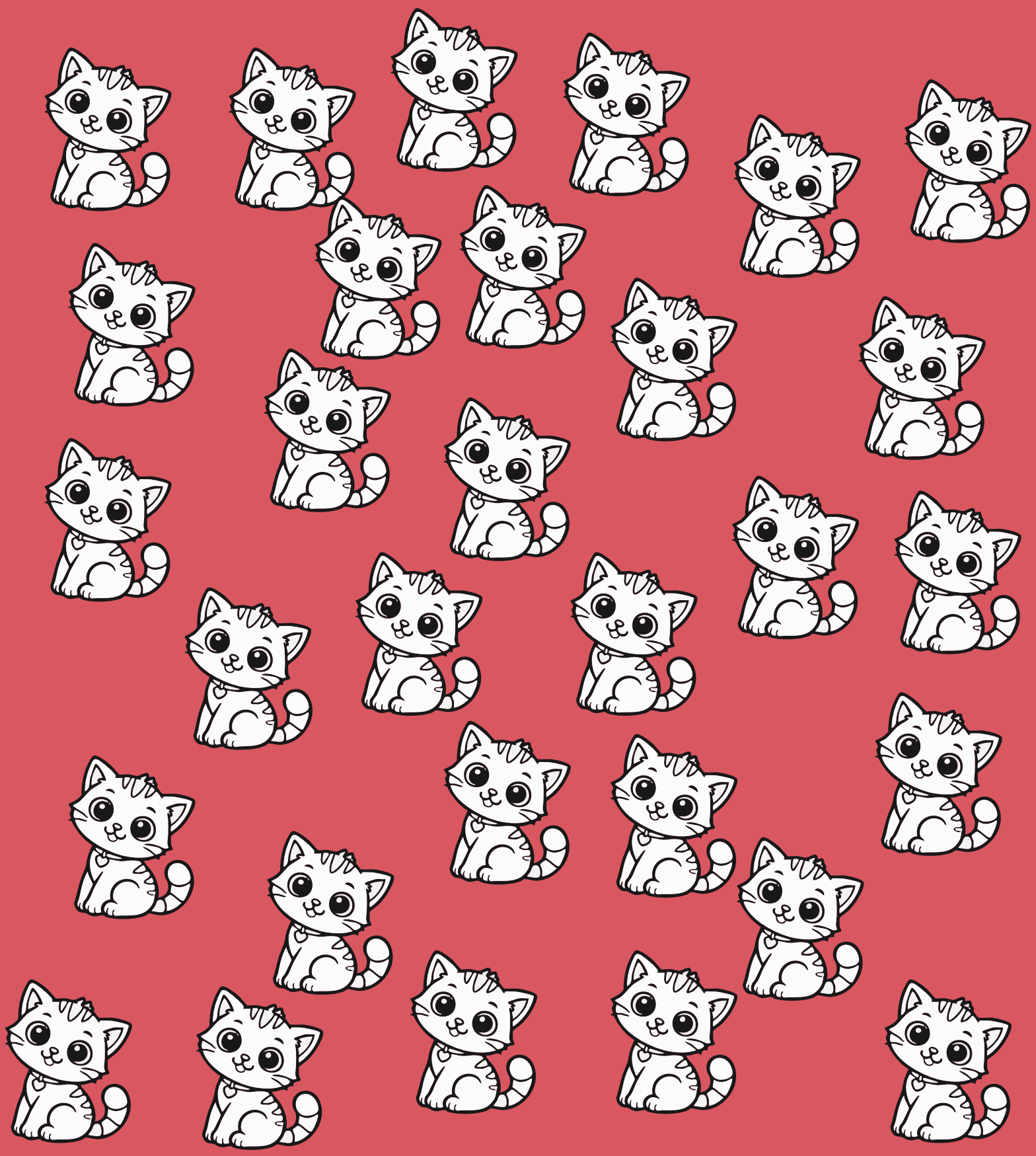


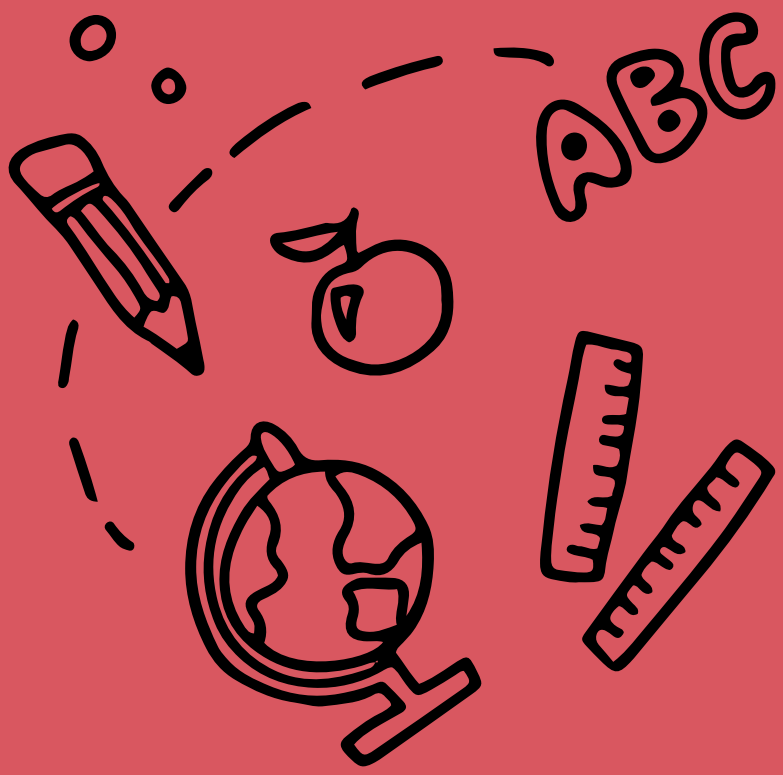
LET'S WRITE OR DRAW

WHAT WOULD YOUR WISH/DUAA BE?

LET'S COUNT

How many cats can you find on this page?





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!