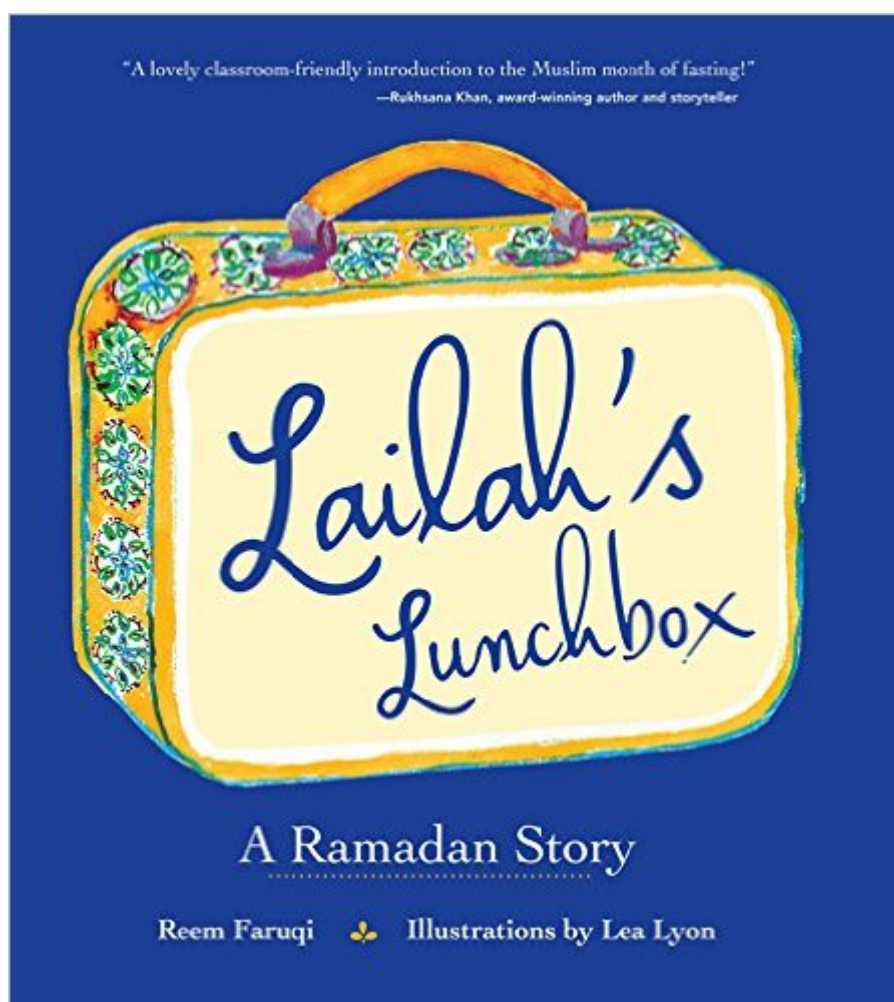


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# Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story



## Synopsis

\*Notable Social Studies Trade Book For Young People 2016, a cooperative Project of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the Children's Book Council\*\*Featured Book of the Month, Anti-Defamation League\*\*American Library Association Notable Book for Children 2016\*  
Lailah is in a new school in a new country, thousands of miles from her old home, and missing her old friends. When Ramadan begins, she is excited that she is finally old enough to participate in the fasting but worried that her classmates won't understand why she doesn't join them in the lunchroom. Lailah solves her problem with help from the school librarian and her teacher and in doing so learns that she can make new friends who respect her beliefs. This gentle, moving story from first-time author Reem Faruqi comes to life in Lea Lyon's vibrant illustrations. Lyon uses decorative arabesque borders on intermittent spreads to contrast the ordered patterns of Islamic observances with the unbounded rhythms of American school days.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 700 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Tilbury House Publishers; 1 edition (May 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0884484319

ISBN-13: 978-0884484318

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #67,717 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Religious #35 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction #50 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 7

## Customer Reviews

While this book educates children and adults about the Muslim month of fasting (Ramadan), it also conveys a message of encouragement for all those that feel different. Children may find it difficult to talk about what makes them different. Perhaps that difference is having a chronic health condition,

having a family member with a developmental disability, or belonging to a non-traditional family. They may feel just like Lailah and be afraid that nobody will understand. I would recommend this book to parents, family members, educators, and caregivers wanting to give a little bit of encouragement to the child in their life that feels different and out of place.

I purchased this book as a gift for my granddaughter. Since she is only a 4 year old child who barely reads, my intention was to read it for her; therefore, I did so myself first to be better prepared and for curiosity about the book itself. I must say it was quite a delightful read, even for grandpas! Aside from it being such an interesting and very well written traditional classic with an introduction, body and conclusion, it was even more moving when I learned towards the end that it was based on the actual childhood story of the author herself. She simply, yet clearly, illustrated what a lot of the younger Muslim generations (and even some adults) go through in trying to explain to their fellow students (or co-workers) of other faiths about why they are not eating or even "just drinking water" with them during snack or lunch breaks.

Lailah's Lunchbox is an easy to understand book with great illustrations. As I was reading it, I felt nostalgic thinking about the times that I had to explain Ramadan to others as a child. The author did a wonderful job in not only explaining the child's feelings, but also making Ramadan sound like it's an extra special time for Muslims and that we should be proud to take part in this month. This attitude is especially needed for Muslim children going to schools in the West where they might feel like outsiders. I highly recommend this book and think it would make a perfect gift for a child who completes their first fast in Ramadan.

Beautiful book that teaches courage in accepting your differences, tolerance, and respect for each other. I love the diversity in the illustrations and in the text. There are so many nuances to the story and illustrations that make it such an endearing book, there's the classmates offering to share, there's the librarian's welcoming smile, the teachers gentle response to Lailah. A perfect book for Muslim families this Ramadan and a perfect book for a diverse bookshelf.

My wife, girls (ages 8 and almost 10), and two young friends of ours from Afghanistan had the pleasure of hearing Ms. Faruqi read Lailah's Lunchbox at the Little Shop of Stories in Decatur, Georgia. Lailah's story is a heartfelt tale of faith, acceptance, and being comfortable with who you are and what makes you different in a diverse society. As non-Muslims with Muslim friends, my

family and I enjoyed learning more about Ramadan, and my girls have enjoyed re-reading the book and talking about the illustrations. Speaking of the illustrations, they are warm, detailed, and really bring the book to life. This is especially impressive as Ms. Faruqi's first book and we look forward to her future ones!

Perfect Ramadan book for kids of all ages! My toddler loved it and asked me to re-read it several times and we talked about Laila's emotions throughout the book. It also reminded me of when I was the only Muslim in my school and had to fast and I felt left out so my dad came to pick me up during lunch time so I don't feel bad. Very well-written, simple, yet emotional. I'm an educator and highly recommend this book to be added to school libraries. Also if your child attends a non-Muslim school, this book is great to read to in the classroom to help students understand what Ramadan is.

Lailah felt like I did in school, unsure about how to explain important things to her teacher and classmates. Her school librarian gave her a helpful suggestion which allowed her to solve her problem. The book will not only help kids understand Ramadan but also give many kids a chance to identify with Lailah's dilemma of how to tell people she does not know very well about something she cares a lot about. I could see good discussions in the classroom coming from both themes.

This is a wonderful, touching book...a beautiful story beautifully illustrated. It has a very positive message for children. I would recommend this for children of all faiths, as it teaches them to have courage to observe their beliefs and explain them to others with pride.

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