

EDUCATOR GUIDE

SALMA WRITES A BOOK

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GENRE: Early chapter book

THEMES: family, immigration, social and emotional learning, LGBTQ+

SUITABLE FOR: Grade 1–4, Ages 6–9

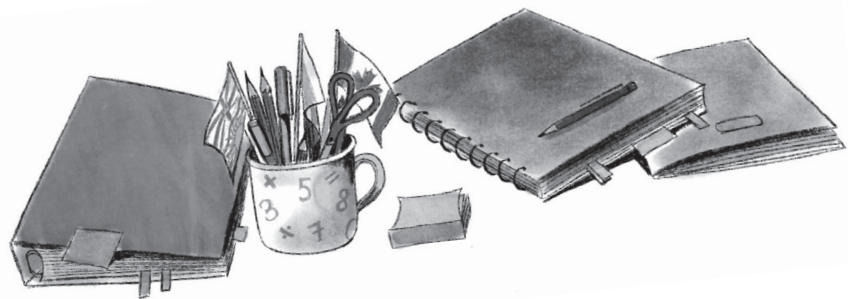
GUIDED READING LEVEL: Fountas and Pinnell N

LEXILE: 730L

COMMON CORE STANDARDS: RL.3.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9
W.3.1,1a,1b,1c,3,3a,3b,3c,3d,4,5,6
SL.3.1,1a,1b,1c,1d,2,3,4,5,6
L.3.4,4a,4b,4c,4d,4e,5,5a,5b,5c,6

SUMMARY:

Salma is going to be a big sister! She's determined to be the best sister ever, so she sets out to write the ultimate guidebook to siblinghood. But the more Salma learns about siblings, the more confused she gets, especially since her mama is fighting with her own brother, Khalou Dawood, about who he loves. Can Salma figure out what it means to be a good sister before the baby arrives?





Discussion Questions

1. Draw and label a picture of your family. Include all the people you love.
2. What is your favorite part of the story? Why?
3. In the story, Salma decides to research and interview siblings to learn more about what makes a good sibling. Is there someone you are interested in interviewing on a certain topic? What do you want to learn from them? Write a list of interview questions that you want to ask.
4. In the story, Salma writes a step-by-step guide on how to be a good older sibling. Can you write a step-by-step guide about something you are interested in?
5. A big theme in the story is how to be a good sibling. What are some actions you can take to be a good sibling or friend? What are some of the ways Salma's mama and uncle were/are good siblings?
6. What are some of the responsibilities that siblings have to each other?
7. Salma's family has been through many changes, such as moving to Canada, learning English, greeting an uncle, and soon a new baby! In your family or community have there ever been circumstances or events that have created change? What are some of the ways you dealt with the change and how did you feel about it?
8. Salma's family speaks Arabic and English. The word for *uncle* in Arabic is *khalou*. What languages do you and your classmates speak? What are the words you use for your family members?
9. During Eid al-Adha, Salma helps her mom make a dessert for the celebration called *mamoul*. Is there a dessert you like or one that you help your family prepare for an important holiday, celebration, or event?

10. Salma's mom and her uncle have a disagreement in the story which has lasted for a long time. The disagreement is about who Salma's uncle loves and is married to. How do they deal with the disagreement in the story from the beginning to end? How do they move towards still having a caring relationship and bond with each other?
11. What are some of the reasons that siblings or friends may argue or have disagreements? Have you ever had a disagreement with someone? How did it make you feel? What steps did you take to find a resolution to the problem?
12. Salma plays a leadership role to welcome her uncle's partner into the family. What are some words and actions she takes to show respect and inclusion?
13. In the story, Salma thinks about the importance of having books that represent her, her family, and their experiences. Why is it important for all people and communities to have books that represent them? Have you found any books that represent you and your experiences? What actions can we take in our classroom, school library, home, and community so that we have books that represent many different experiences and perspectives?
14. Salma and Riya decide to make a bib for the baby but they use Riya's mom's special shawl without asking permission. Then, they lie because they are worried their moms will get mad at them for their actions. How does this situation make them and others feel? How do they fix this problem, and what do they learn?
15. What do you think the following quote from the story means: "It's not about never making mistakes, it's about being brave enough to fix them"? (page 82)
16. In the story, we see that Salma's mom and uncle need time to solve their disagreement. What do you think the following quote means in relation to the situation the mother and uncle are going through: "Even when we disagree, we still have love for one another"? (page 95)
17. Salma and Riya try to make a special gift for the new baby. Use recycled materials (ask a grown-up first!) to make a special present for someone you love and care about. What will you make? How do you think it will make the other person feel?

