

SALMA

Makes a Home

Educator Guide and
Activity Sheets





SALMA

Makes a Home

Story by *Danny Ramadan*

Art by *Anna Bron*

GENRE: Picture book

THEMES: family, immigration, social and emotional learning

SUITABLE FOR: Grade 1–4, Ages 6–9

GUIDED READING LEVEL: Fountas and Pinnell O

LEXILE: TBD

COMMON CORE STANDARDS: RL.2.2.1,2,3,4,5,6,7
W.2.1,3,5,6
SL.2.1,1a,1b,1c,2,3,4,5,6
L.2.2,3,4,4a,4b,4c,4d,4e,5,5a,5b,6

SUMMARY:

Charming, creative Salma takes on big feelings with even bigger ideas as she navigates life in a new country, Syrian identity, family changes, and new friendships in this engaging and heartfelt early chapter book series.

After a year, eleven months, and six days apart, Salma's dad is finally joining her family in their new home. Salma is so happy to see her baba—but she's also worried. What if he misses Syria so much that he leaves them again? She throws herself into showing him around the city and helping him learn English, but as Baba shares memories of Damascus, Salma starts to realize how much she misses Syria, too. Can Salma make space in her heart for two homes? And can Baba?



Discussion Questions

1. Home is an important theme in the book, and throughout the story, we learn that home can mean many different things for people. What does the word *home* mean to you?
2. Family is another important theme in the book. Draw a picture of all the people whom you love and care about.
3. What are some of the preparations Salma makes to welcome her father? Have you ever looked forward to someone visiting? How did you prepare for their visit? What was the significance of what you prepared?
4. Salma is happy and excited her father is finally moving to Vancouver, but she is experiencing many different feelings. Describe the different feelings she is experiencing in the story and the many reasons why.
5. Salma speaks Arabic and English. What languages do you or your family speak? Share a few words in your language.
6. On page 51, Salma's father has a racist encounter with a cyclist who says, "Go back to where you came from." How do you think Salma's father felt in this scene? What can you do to help someone who may be new to a community feel welcomed and respected?
7. Salma thinks that she has to choose between Damascus and Vancouver. Did you ever feel like you had to make the choice between two important things? Do you think it's possible to care about two different things at the same time?

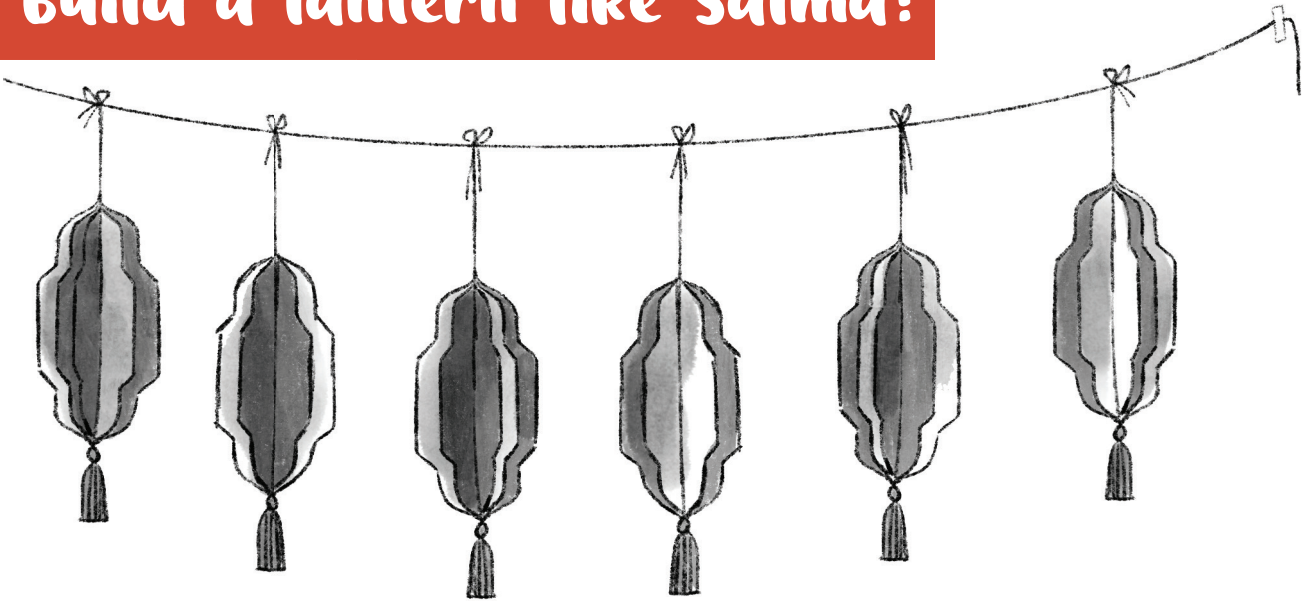


8. Throughout the story, Salma worries that her father will not like Canada and will want to move back to Syria without her. How does the conversation with her dad in chapter 8 make Salma feel better?
9. Salma is lucky to have her family, friends, and community around her. How do the different people help her when she is feeling overwhelmed and going through hard experiences (e.g., her dad, mom, friend)?
10. Salma feels like she is forgetting her life in Syria. This can happen many times during the adjustment period when people move to a new country. What are some of the things in the story that can help Salma remember Syria?
11. Salma's mom makes yummy Syrian food like mfarakeh and jasmine tea. What is your favorite food? Does your favorite food help you connect with the people you love?
12. Backgammon is a fun board game played by many people. Do you have a favorite game or activity that you like to play? How do you play it? What is the origin of the game or activity?
13. What do you think Salma means when she says on page 91: "It's okay to have two homes at the same time . . . One right here,' she says, gesturing at their Canadian home, 'and one hiding right here.' Salma points into her own chest, right where her heart beats."
14. What is your favorite part of the story? Why?
15. Take a look at the illustrations in the book. How do they help us learn about Salma's character and her experiences?





Build a lantern like Salma!



What you need:

- Four pieces of yarn in the color of your choice:
 - One piece about two feet long
 - Two short pieces about three inches long
 - One piece about one foot long (for securing onto the lantern at the end)
- A square piece of cardboard (about 3 inches by 3 inches)
- Scissors
- Two colorful sheets of paper
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Lantern template on page 7

First, let's make the tassel:

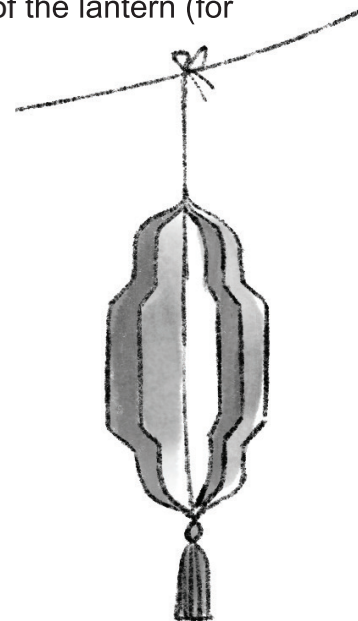
1. Take your longest piece of yarn and hold one end against the side of the cardboard square.
2. Wrap the yarn around the cardboard. Keep going until you run out of yarn.
3. Take one of the short pieces of yarn, slide it between the wrapped yarn and the top of the cardboard, and then tie it into a tight double knot.

4. Slide the tassel off the cardboard.
5. Tie the other short piece of yarn about 1 inch from the top of the tassel (where you just tied the double knot) as tightly as you can. You can tie multiple knots to make sure it's secure.
6. Cut through the bottom loop of the tassel.
7. Take your remaining piece of yarn and tie it at the top of the tassel, so you can secure it to your lantern later. Your tassel is now done!

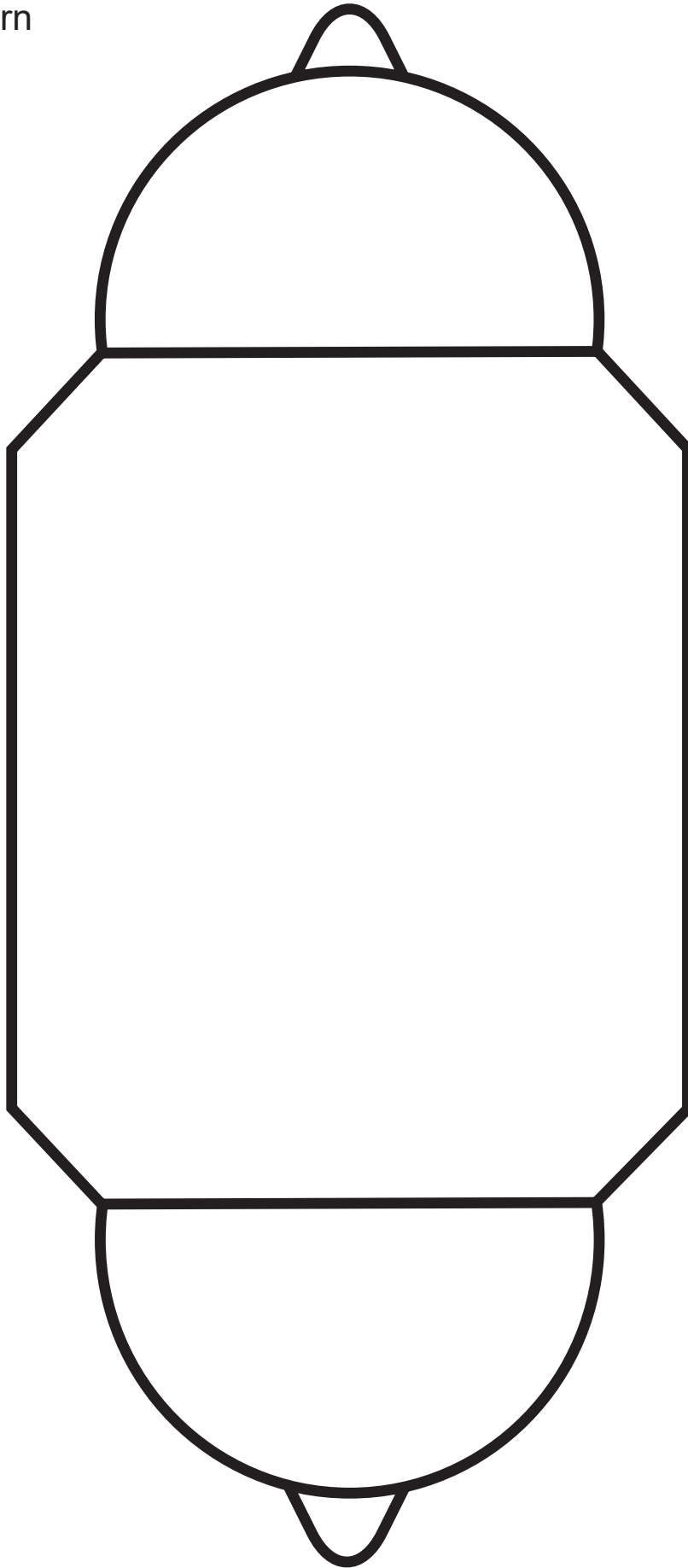
Second, let's make the lantern:

1. Cut out the template on page 7.
2. Trace the template four times on each of two colorful sheets of paper. You should have drawn eight lanterns.
3. Cut out all eight lantern pieces.
4. Fold each lantern piece in half, lengthwise (hot-dog style).
5. Take one folded lantern piece and put glue on one side. Take a second folded piece (in the other color) and put it on top of the piece you just glued. Then, glue on top of this second piece and attach a third piece (the first color). Keep gluing alternating colors of lantern pieces until you have a stack of all eight lantern pieces.
6. Add your tassel: Find the spot where the first and last lantern pieces meet and put some glue down the center. Take your tassel with the long yarn hanging from the top and secure the yarn in the center of the lantern, making sure the end of the yarn pokes out at the top of the lantern (for hanging) and your tassel is hanging down below the bottom of the lantern.
7. To secure your tassel, glue the side of the last lantern piece to the side of the first piece to close the lantern and hold the hanging yarn and tassel in place.

Your lantern is now complete!



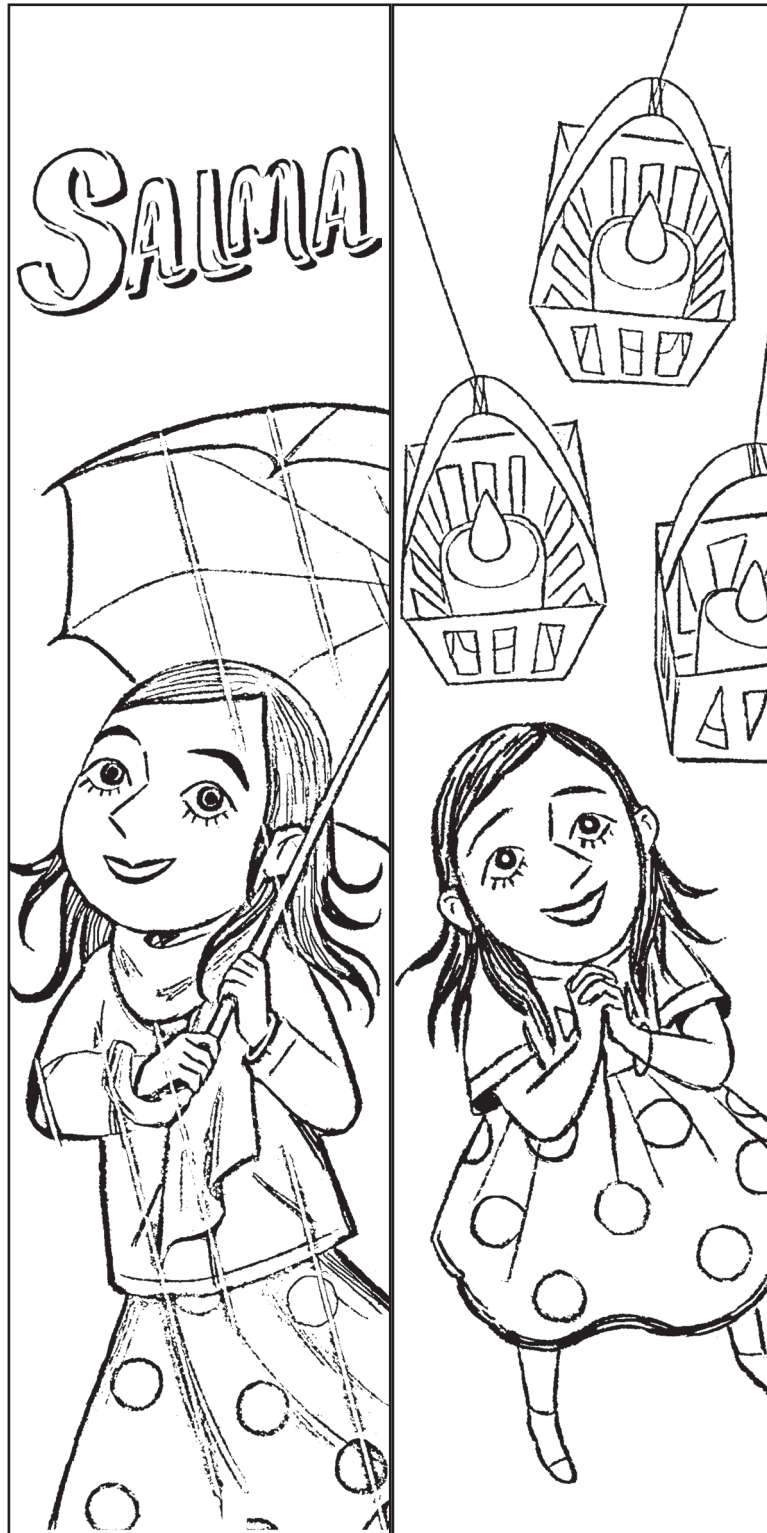
Top of lantern





Color your bookmark!

Print. Color. Cut along outside edge. Fold in half. Glue together.
Your bookmark is ready to use!





Author Video

Watch the interview with author Danny Ramadan.



https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKVd_FFA2gSsag_SlphWvjg0I1Ns4-Ch8

