

Title: *Does My Head Look Big in This?*

Author: Randa Abdel-Fattah

Category: Religion and Belief

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen V., Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 8/5/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book follows a sixteen year old girl named Amal, who decided for herself that she wants to wear a hijab full time. This decision is met with mixed reactions from various people in her life: her parents, teachers, friends, and even strangers. The plot ultimately shows Amal work past numerous obstacles in her way in order to feel fully confident and comfortable in embracing her faith as a Muslim in America.

2. Which character did you most identify with and why?

I identify and relate most to Amal because she faces a lot of the same experiences many people of color do in America. While I was reading her story, I felt inspired to do the things that I believe in and to not let other people's opinions tear me down.

3. What do you believe is the main message of this book?

I believe the main message of this book is to stay true to yourself and trust the process, despite the obstacles that may stand in your way. Throughout the book, Amal faces mixed reactions from the people in her community after she decides to become a full time hijabi. However, she remained true to herself and embraced her faith in a strong and determined way, which is very admirable.

4. Do you think the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story, or did it come across as too "preachy"?

At some points, I did find this book to be a little "preachy" because the plot used many stereotypes of characters to further push the plot along. Overall, I still enjoyed the book and think that the message of the story is immensely important.

5. If two or more perspectives on an important topic were explored/presented in this book, which one did you agree with and why?

In this book, there were two overarching perspectives, one where people believe Amal should not wear the hijab, and another where Amal is steadfast in what she believes in and is determined to wear the hijab full time. I agree with Amal's perspective because we see how strong she is in her faith and accepts the challenges that come with being a hijabi. I think this story is incredibly inspiring to young muslims, especially those who want to follow in Amal's footsteps and wear the hijab.

6. In what ways (if any) were your beliefs about a topic changed or reaffirmed through reading this book?

My beliefs about Islam and how strong you have to be in order to be a hijabi were reaffirmed because Amal faced many trials where others would have given up to societal pressure. Her story inspired me to take control and make my beliefs known.

7. What perspective, if any, do you think was missing from this book?

I do not think this book was missing any perspective because Amal's points of view were made very clear to the readers.

8. Did this book encourage you to pursue any topics further through more reading, research,

action, etc., and if so, how?

This book encouraged me to conduct my own research on the hijab and what it means in Islam. After reading about Amal's story, I thought it was a good idea to do further research to better understand why Amal was so determined to wear the hijab. This book made me want to do my own reading and see the full importance of the hijab.

9. What type of reader (based on age, interests, perspectives, etc.) would you suggest this book to?

I would suggest this book to readers who like books about religion. I would especially recommend this book to young Muslim girls, specifically those who are interested in becoming a hijabi full time because this book will inspire them and make them feel more confident in themselves.

10. What other book(s) have you read that you think would make a good addition to this category of the Perspectives Bibliography, and why?

Another book that I think would make a great addition to this category is Ten Things I Hate About Me, which tells the story of a Lebanese-Muslim who has trouble with her true identity from her peers at school. In order to blend in with her community, the main character dyes her hair blonde and changes her name to be more Americanized. This book is great because it shows readers how you can come on top while being yourself.