

Book Title: The Proudest Blue

Author: Ibtihaj Muhammad

Introduction

- Ask students: What do you notice about the cover of this book? What emotions are conveyed?
- Explain that the author, Ibtihaj Muhammad, was an Olympic fencer and the first Muslim-American woman to wear a hijab while competing for Team USA.
- Ask: What does it mean to feel proud of who you are?
- Have you ever been in a situation where someone doesn't understand or respect something that is important to you?

Reading and Discussion

Introduce vocabulary: hijab,

- How does the narrator feel about her sister's hijab?
- Why do some children at school react negatively?
- What do you think Mama means when she says wearing hijab means being strong?
- How does Asiya show strength and confidence?
- How do the sisters feel about wearing a hijab?
- What does the blue hijab symbolize?

Activity: Create a Symbol of Pride

- Ask students to think of something they wear, say, or do that represents their identity or culture. Examples:
 - A special piece of clothing (sports uniform, traditional dress, favorite accessory)
 - A family tradition or celebration
 - A word or phrase from their heritage or background
- Have students draw their "symbol of pride" and write a short explanation of why it is important to them.
- Final Discussion questions:
 - Why is it important to respect people's differences?
 - How can we support others when they feel different or excluded?