

Salat in Secret

AUTHOR

JAMILAH THOMPCKINS-BIGELOW

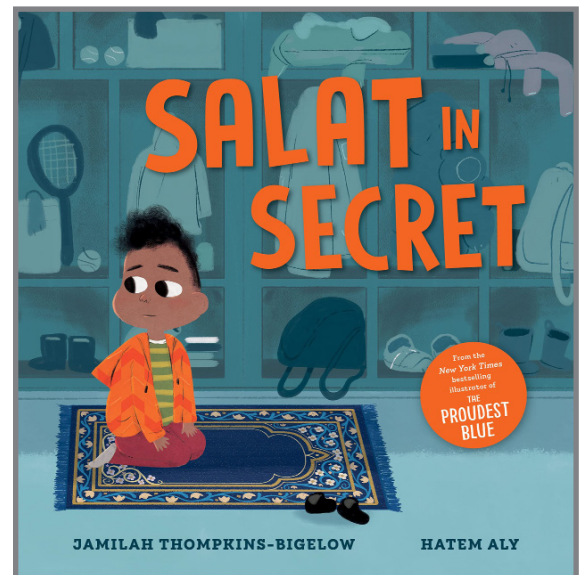
ILLUSTRATOR

HATEM ALY

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Find the bravery to celebrate your beliefs and cultural traditions without fear of judgement.

When Muhammed turns seven, his father gifts him his very first salat rug to pray with. Muhammad is excited to begin his salat journey, but is more comfortable silently praying in secret, afraid of the judgement he sees his dad receive when he prays in public. Can Muhammad learn to be brave and embrace his salat practice instead of hiding it from the world?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow M.S.Ed, is a Philadelphia-based educator and children's book author. A curriculum writer and former English teacher, she has educated children and teens in traditional and alternative learning settings for 15 years. As an inaugural AMAL fellow with the Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC), she developed foundational curricular frameworks for youth and adult anti-racist programming. Her picture books and short stories, which feature young Black and Muslim protagonists, have been recognised as the best in children's literature by *Time Magazine*, *Read Across America*, and *NPR*.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Hatem Aly is an Egyptian-born illustrator whose work has been featured in multiple publications worldwide. He currently lives in beautiful New Brunswick, Canada, with his wife, son, and more pets than people. His illustrated work includes the Newbery Honor winner *The Inquisitor's Tale* by Adam Gidwitz, The Unicorn Rescue Society series also by Adam Gidwitz with several amazing contributing authors, The Story Pirates book series with Geoff Rodkey and Jacqueline West, early readers series Meet Yasmin with Saadia Faruqi, and *How to Feed Your Parents* by Ryan Miller. He has more upcoming books and projects in the works.

You can find him online [@metahatem](https://www.instagram.com/metahatem).

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- View the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author/illustrator

- The publisher
- The blurb.
- What do you think the story might be about from looking at the **title** only? Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attentions and give them some idea of what the book is about. How do you think the story will begin/end?
 - Based on the **cover**, what do you think this story is about? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Write your own story using the title of the picture book.

WHILE READING

Exploring the Text

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in this text? eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

Exploring the Illustrations

- How do the illustrations add to the story?
- Do you think the illustrator has effectively told the story visually?
- Cover the text in the book and write your own story following the illustrations.
- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion, using the questions below, about the illustration decisions.
 - How do the illustrations add to the story?
 - How do you think the people are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
 - Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
 - Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
 - Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
 - Are any of the words bigger on the page than the others? Why could that be?