

Safiyyah's War

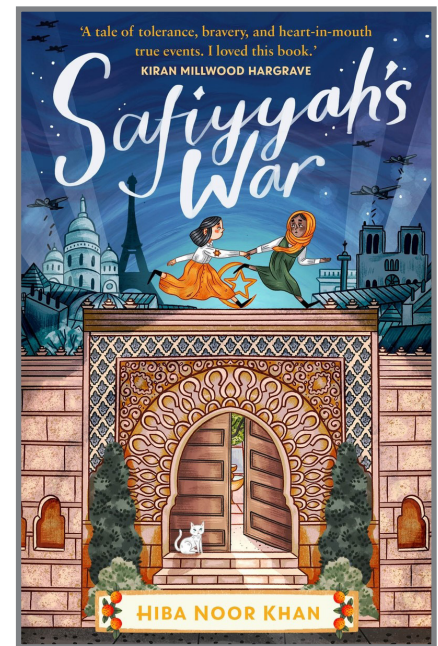
AUTHOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

War comes to the streets of Paris and Safiyyah's life changes forever.

Her best friend's family have fled, and the bombing makes her afraid to leave the mosque where she lives. But when her father is arrested by the Nazis for his secret Resistance work, it falls to Safiyyah to run the dangerous errands around the city.

It's not long before hundreds of persecuted Jews seek sanctuary at the mosque. Can Safiyyah find the courage to enter the treacherous catacombs under Paris and lead the Jews to safety?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hiba is the author of *One Home*, *Inspiring Inventors Who Are Changing Our Future*, *The Extraordinary Life of Malala Yousafzai*, and the picture book *The Little War Cat*. Hiba has many strings to her bow: she's a physics teacher and a recent Global Diplomacy graduate. Hiba is also an activist, she's worked for The Children's Society as a Refugee Advocate and for the United Nations IOM on international development projects. She's also delivered humanitarian aid in Syrian refugee camps and worked on reforestation initiatives in Tanzania.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Before reading the novel, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- 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 attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.

WHILE READING

Orientation

- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. In the opening scene of the novel, which character/s are we introduced to?
- What mood is the author setting?
- Write what you think could happen in the story based on how the writer has set the story up.

Complications

- It is the author's job to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
- Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension?

Characterisation

- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw a picture of a character from the book and then describe their personality in five words. Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person?

Setting and World-building

- Consider the world the author has created in this novel and then answer the following questions:
 - Can you describe it?
 - How is it different to the world you live in?
 - Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?

Resolution

- How does the story conclude (resolution)?
- Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the first chapter. Were you surprised by where the story went?

AFTER READING

- Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?
- Imagine that a movie was being made of the novel. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have.
 - Also choose your ideal cast for the movie and create a movie poster.