



CONTENT GUIDE

**Teachers, Parents,
and Educators**

By Ayten Nihal Cengiz



DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE

Ninety-Nine

Discussion

- What does Al-Awwal mean?
- What does it mean that Allah was there before everything?
- How does that make you feel (safe, grateful, calm)?

Activity

- “First Moments” timeline:
 - students draw 4 “firsts” (first day of school, first best friend, etc.) → end with: “Allah was before all of it.”

A Smile and a Sip

Discussion

- Why did the Prophet ask Abdullah first?
- Was Abdullah rude or honest? Why?
- What’s the balance: respect + rights?

Activity

- Role-play (30 seconds each): “My turn” vs “Let them go first” — students choose the best choice for 3 quick scenarios (line, snack, game)

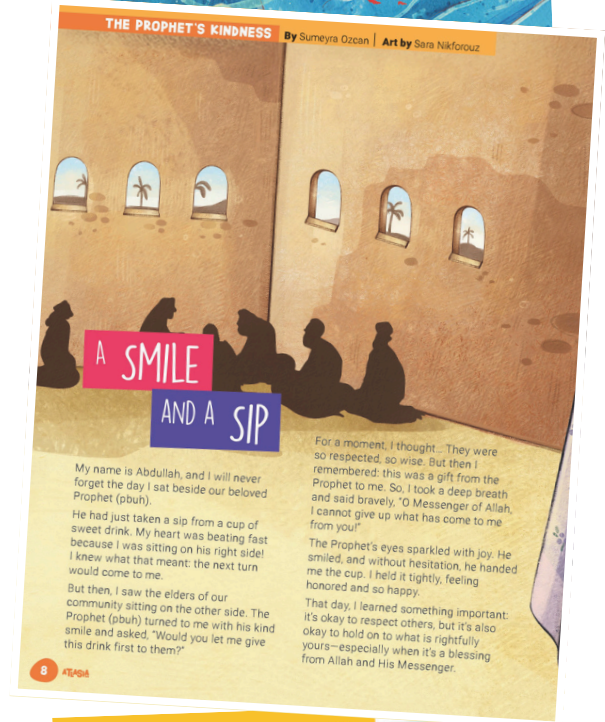
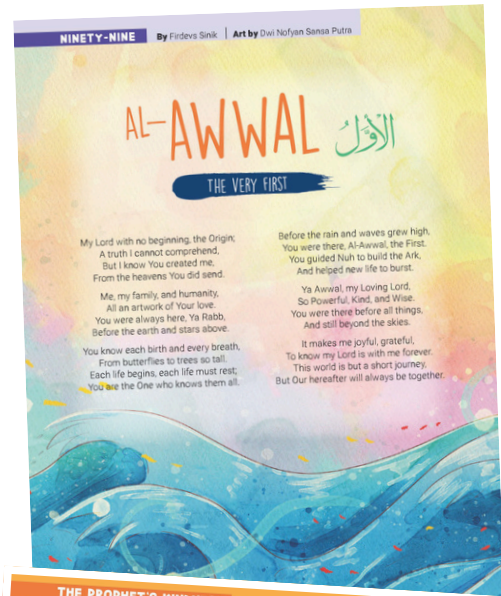
Anti-Boredom Corner

Discussion

- What makes grandma’s house feel special?
- How do we show respect at someone’s home?

Activity

- “Grandma Visit Manners” mini-poster (5 rules): ask permission, help clean, kind words, thank you, dua for elders.
- Story swap: students share one “elder story” they learned from a grandparent/elder.



The Midnight Knitter

Pre-Reading

- What’s one small thing that can make others feel warm/seen?

Discussion

- Who did Grandma Lila notice first?
- Why is noticing needs a kind of “ibadah”?
- What changed in the town because of one person’s kindness?

Activity

“Warmth List” challenge:

- students write 5 ways to “warm” someone (include, help, smile, share, defend).
- Optional: Kindness knitting craft: paper “scarf” strips—each strip = one kind action to do this week.



CompleTest

Discussion

- What makes a joke clean?
- When can jokes hurt?
- What is one healthy way to calm down fast?

Activity

- Two buckets: “Funny + kind” vs “Funny but hurtful.”
- Students rewrite 1 “hurtful joke idea” into a kind one.



Diary of Layla

Pre-Reading

- Have you ever been called a name you didn't like?
- Do you have special nicknames for yourself?
- What is the difference between laughing with someone and laughing at someone?

Discussion

- What did Layla notice on Sami's face?
- What rule did her Baba share about nicknames?
- Why is secret giving special?
- How did Layla notice her friend was hurt, even before he said anything?
- Why can "jokes" or nicknames become harmful even if the person didn't mean it?

Activity

"Nickname Filter" (quick):

- Is it true? Is it kind? Would they smile?
- Secret Sadaqah (class version): anonymous kind note/gift (dua card, bookmark, compliment).
- Year-in-review jar: 3 memories + 1 lesson learned.

Amaze Moo

Discussion

- Why do rules protect us?
- What went wrong with "no rules"?
- What's one "rule" that helps you (home/school)?

Activity

- Two Paths chart: "Rules help when..." vs "No rules leads to..."
- Ending prompt: "Who found Note Moo? What should he learn?"

DIARY OF LAYLA By Saadia Rauf | Art by Olga Surina

Monday, December 8th, 2025

Today something happened at school that made me stop and think. During recess, a few kids were teasing Sami and calling him "Snooze Boy" because he yawned during class. At first, I laughed a little just a tiny bit! But then I saw his face. He didn't laugh back. Later, in the car, Sami was really quiet. I asked if he was okay, and he said, "It's not the first time they've called me stuff. It just gets tiring."

That made my stomach twist a little. At home, I told Baba about it. He said the Prophet (peace be upon him) taught us never to call people by hurtful nicknames even if we think it's just a joke. He said, "Names should lift people up, not push them down." So I sat with Sami and told him the truth. I think he's thoughtful, creative, and gets sometimes sleepy, but that's only because he stays up helping Mama or finishing his art projects. We made a deal to stick up for each other, and he even gave me a nickname: "Captain Compassion." I like it.

From now on, I'm only giving people nicknames that make them smile.



Saturday, December 14th, 2025

Our masjid started a "Secret Sadaqah" game for the kids. Everyone drew a name and had to give that person a small, anonymous gift by next weekend.

I got Arial! I'm painting her a watercolor bookmark with her favorite verse: "Verily, with hardship comes ease." I even added tiny stars around the edges.

Sami drew someone too, but he won't tell me who. He's been sneaky with construction paper, scissors, and lots of glue. Suspicious. Giving without being seen or thanked feels... peaceful. Like a soft hug between you and Allah. Mama said the Prophet (pbuh) gave quietly all the time.

I hope my gift brings a little sparkle to Ariah's day. And I hope whoever Sami is crafting for likes glitter. Because he used a lot.



Friday, December 27th, 2025

Tonight we had a family "year in review" night. Mama gave each of us a jar and slips of paper to write our favorite memories of 2025.

I wrote: "Victor shower sleepout," "Baking banana bread (oops)," and "Sirah Fair poster." Sami wrote: "Winning at trail mix," and "Not cutting Layla's hair this year." Rude. But fair! We sat on the rug and took turns reading our notes. Baba said the Prophet (pbuh) would reflect at the end of each day, thinking about what was done and what could be better.

I think I'll keep my jar on my windowsill and fill it up all year. Maybe next December, it'll be overflowing.

Also... next year I'm hiding the scissors again. Just in case.

Make your own 2025 jar and see what Allah has blessed you with this year!



AMAZE MOO By Hassan Ahmet Gokce

The morning light had just started to peek over the farm when a loud "MOO!" broke the silence. Amaze Moo woke up...

For a moment, he looked around sleepily. When he realized the sound came from his cousin Note Moo, he rolled back over.

For two weeks, Note Moo had been singing loudly at dawn. He thought it made him happy. And it really did but the rest of the farm wasn't happy about it at all.

They kindly told him, "You need to follow the rules," but who listens? The animals couldn't sleep at night and started acting off during the day! Some fell asleep while drinking, some forgot what they were doing with spoons in their mouths. Even the rooster crowed at sunset instead of sunrise!

Alright, contestants! We've reached the final stage. You'll now choose between two different paths. Pick whichever one you like best!

Just then, a contest was announced on the farm. The grand prize excited everyone, including Note Moo. And when Note Moo got excited, Amaze Moo couldn't help feeling the same. Both cows passed the early rounds, and made it to the finals!



Zoom: Oymyakon (Coldest Inhabited Place)

Pre-Reading

Show images or mime

- Shivering + icy breath
- Putting on layers (hat, gloves, boots)
- Frozen eyelashes / snow glare

Ask

- What’s the coldest you’ve ever felt, and what happened to your body?
- Why do people wear layers in extreme cold?

Discussion

- What surprised you most about daily life there?
- Why does teamwork matter in extreme places?
- What might Allah teach people through places like this?

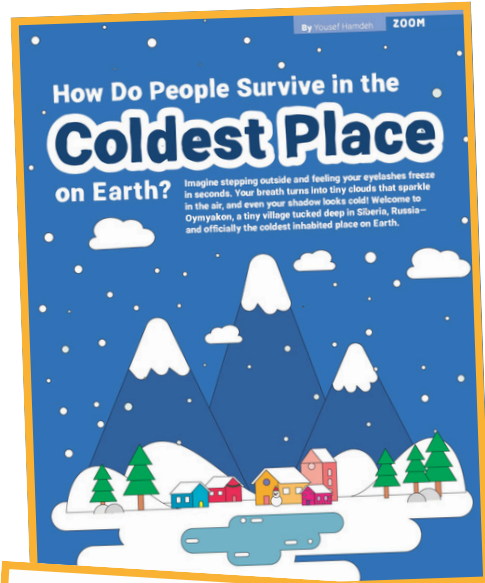
Activity

“Survival Pack” design: 6 items + 1 reason each.

- Faith link: students write 1 line: “Hard times don’t last; Allah helps.”

“Freeze-Proof Pack”

- If you lived in Oymyakon for one day, choose 5 items you must bring (clothes/tools/food).



Stories of the Prophets

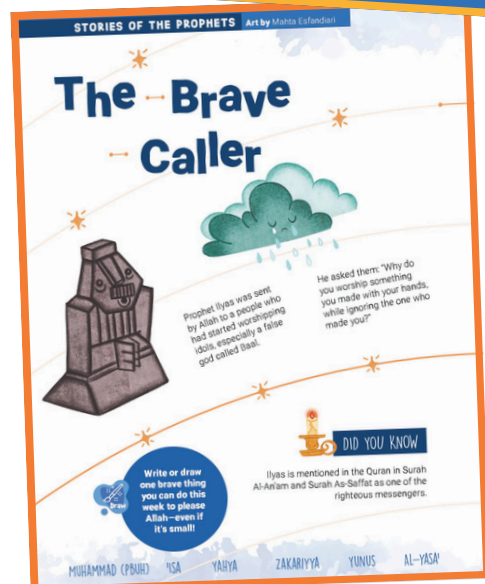
Discussion

- What was the main problem in Prophet Ilyas’s community, and why was it dangerous for their faith?
- What dua could you make when you need courage to do the right thing?
- What’s one right thing you should do even if you’re alone?

Activity

“Courage in One Sentence”:

- “I will do the right thing when ____.”
- “Ya Allah, make me steady.”



Tech High5

Discussion

- Which technology solution impressed you most, and why do you think it matters?
- What problem does it solve?
- What are examples of technology being used irresponsibly, and what could be a better choice?

Activity

Invent for warmth:

- pick 1 problem → design 1 solution (name + sketch + who it helps).

Teamwork link: "What's one way we can help others in winter?"

Surah Spotlight

Discussion

- What message does this surah give someone who feels sad, alone, or forgotten?
- Why is it comforting to know Allah does not abandon His servant?

Activity

"Light After Darkness" card:

- students write 1 hard moment + 1 hope dua.

Kindness mission: help 1 person who's struggling (quietly).





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