



# CONTENT GUIDE

**Teachers, Parents,  
and Educators**

By Ayten Nihal Cengiz



MARCH 2026 ISSUE

## Ninety-Nine

### Discussion

- What matters more: appearance or actions?
- Why does Allah know what is hidden in our hearts?
- How can we be the same “inside and outside”?

### Activity

Students write:

- A secret good deed they can do
- A hidden quality they want to strengthen

Place them inside folded paper hearts or “ocean wave” envelopes.



## The Prophet's Kindness

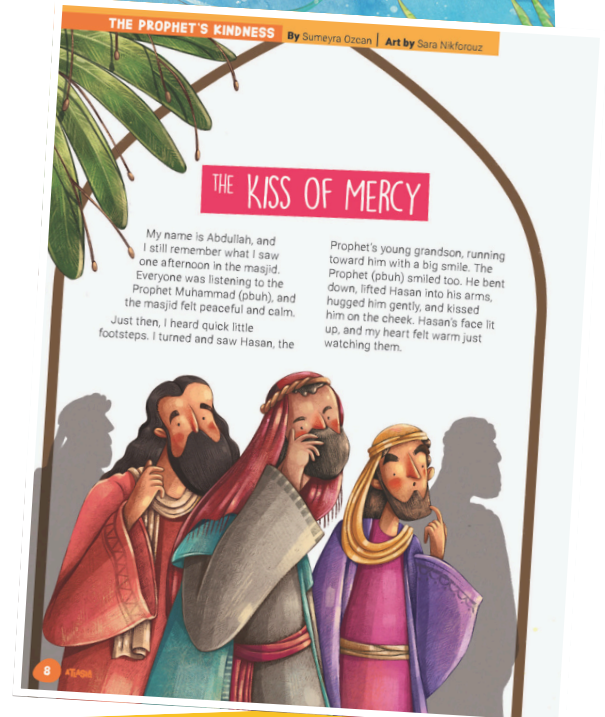
### Discussion

- Why did the Prophet show affection openly?
- What does mercy look like in everyday life?
- Why are kindness and gentleness important in Islam?

### Activity

Students brainstorm simple acts of mercy:

- Helping siblings
- Comforting someone sad
- Caring for animals
- Using gentle words



## Anti-Boredom Corner

### Discussion

- Why is patience important while traveling?
- How can we stay positive during long trips?
- What are respectful ways to behave in public spaces?

### Activity

Students invent their own travel game using:

- Observation
- Drawing
- Storytelling
- Word challenges



## Zayd, A Sandwich, and the Art of Waiting

### Pre-Reading

- Why is waiting difficult?
- Have you ever waited for something exciting?
- What do you usually do when you feel impatient?
- How does your body feel when you are very hungry?
- Can waiting ever make something feel more special?

### Discussion

- Why was Zayd so excited about the sandwich?
- What did the word "almost" make him feel?
- How did washing his hands test his patience?
- What did Zayd do instead of complaining?
- How did helping Grandpa fix the toy car help Zayd wait?
- Why was it important that Zayd listened patiently to Noor?

### Activity

Students write:

- Something hard to wait for
- One strategy to stay patient
- A reward or lesson that comes from waiting

### Reflection

Discuss how patience can make experiences sweeter and more meaningful.

## CompleTest

### Discussion

- What personality traits make people unique?
- Why is every personality valuable?

### Activity

Students create:

- Their own animal personality quiz
- OR
- A comic version of their "cat energy"

**SHORT STORY** By Mohammed Ali | Art by Katya Deyda

### ZAYD, A SANDWICH AND THE ART OF WAITING



When Zayd pushed open the front door after school, his backpack slipped off his shoulder and landed on the floor with a dramatic thump.

It had been a long day. His legs were tired, his brain was tired, and most of all, his stomach was very, very tired of being empty.

"Mama?" he called hopefully.

Mama stepped out of the kitchen holding a plate, and Zayd froze. On that plate was the most magnificent sandwich he had ever seen. It wasn't flat or ordinary, it was tall. It was layered. It was stacked so high Zayd was fairly certain it needed a seatbelt.

Golden bread hugged crisp lettuce, bright tomatoes, and layers of delicious fillings that peeked out from every side.

"Mama," Zayd said carefully, "that sandwich looks legendary."

Mama smiled. "It's almost ready."

Almost. Zayd didn't like the sound of that word. Almost could mean anything. Almost could mean forever.

"Can I have it now?" he asked.

"In a little while," Mama replied gently. "First, wash your hands."

Zayd marched to the sink as if beginning a very serious mission. The water felt like it was flowing slower than usual.

The soap took its time making bubbles. Even the towel seemed to be drying his hands in slow motion. Everything, Zayd noticed, moved more slowly when you were hungry.

When he returned, the sandwich was still on the counter. Waiting.

To distract himself, Zayd lay on the floor and pushed his toy truck forward very slowly.

"Today," he told the truck in a serious voice, "we practice patience."

His stomach growled loudly in response. Zayd nodded. "Yes, I hear you. But we must be strong."

Just then, Grandpa walked in carrying a toolbox. "Who wants to help me fix something?" he asked.

Zayd sat up immediately. "Me!"

Grandpa opened the toolbox on the living room floor and pulled out Noor's toy car. One wheel wobbled sadly whenever it moved. Zayd leaned in, studying it like an expert engineer.

"We must be gentle," he said wisely. Grandpa handed him a small screwdriver and pointed to a loose screw. Zayd held the car carefully while Grandpa tightened it. The car made a squeaky sound.

"That sound means it's thinking," Zayd said.

"Thinking about what?" Grandpa asked.

"Whether it wants to be a race car or a shopping cart," Zayd replied. Grandpa laughed so hard his shoulders shook.




**COMPLETEST** By Sarah Bayga

### What Kind Of Cat Energy Do You Have?

Cats aren't just cute—they have personalities! Answer these fun questions to discover your cat-style spirit.



- 1. It's a quiet afternoon. What are you most likely doing?**
  - A) Curled up somewhere cozy
  - B) Watching everything from a corner
  - C) Exploring something new
  - D) Making everyone laugh
- 2. Someone new walks into the room. You...**
  - A) Pretend you didn't notice
  - B) Observe carefully before reacting
  - C) Walk over with curiosity
  - D) Instantly become their friend
- 3. Your perfect snack time is:**
  - A) Whenever I feel like it
  - B) At the exact same time every day
  - C) After I've explored first
  - D) With friends around
- 4. If you had a superpower, it would be:**
  - A) Staying calm in any situation
  - B) Seeing everything clearly
  - C) Moving fast and quietly
  - D) Making people smile
- 5. Which place feels most "you"?**
  - A) A sunny window
  - B) A quiet library
  - C) Somewhere new and exciting
  - D) Anywhere with people
- 6. How do you handle problems?**
  - A) I rest first, then think
  - B) I think carefully before acting
  - C) I jump in and figure it out
  - D) I ask others to help




## Diary of Layla

### Pre-Reading

- What do you usually feel on the morning of Eid?
- What are some signs that Eid is a special day?
- How does your family prepare for Eid?
- What is one Ramadan habit you hope to keep after Eid?

### Discussion

- What made Layla so excited on Eid morning?
- Why do you think Eid felt “bright and happy and bouncy” to her?
- What details showed that her family was preparing for something special?
- Why are small traditions, like decorations or family photos, meaningful?
- What does Layla mean when she says, “Ramadan trains your heart?”

### Activity

Students write or draw:

- Favorite Eid traditions
- Family celebrations
- Foods, decorations, or memories

Reflection: Discuss gratitude, community, and joy after Ramadan.

## Amaze Moo

### Discussion

- Why was Complaint Moo unhappy?
- What happens when someone complains constantly?
- How can gratitude change our attitude?

### Activity

Students sort phrases into:

- Complaining
- Problem-solving
- Gratitude

**DIARY OF LAYLA** | By Goodgepul M. Aras | Art by Olga Surina

**March 20th 2026, Friday**

Today is Eid!! I woke up before my alarm. Before Mama. Before everyone. That's how you know it's serious.

The house was already busy Mama steaming clothes, Baba saying "Eid Mubarak!" every five minutes, and Sami checking the light near the door because he wanted one quick photo before we left for Eid prayer.

There's a small Eid decoration hanging on our door green leaves, yellow flowers, and a wooden "Eid Mubarak!" sign in fancy writing. Simple and pretty. Sami took the nicest photo of it (it's actually very good at photography), and even Mama said, "Okay wow, send me that."

Mama adjusted the ribbon "just a tiny bit" while telling us not to wrinkle our Eid clothes. When we finally opened the door to leave for Eid prayer, the decoration looked like it was waving goodbye. I almost waved back. Sami said, "Layla, hurry!" but I was busy saying "Eid Mubarak!" to basically the whole hallway.

Now we're heading to the masjid, and everything feels bright and happy and bouncy. IT IS. EID.

**Eid Notes (Very Important Observations)**

- Eid morning smells like clean clothes, perfume, and happiness.
- Everyone says "Eid Mubarak" at the same time and nobody hears anyone.
- Fasting is over but self-control is not (apparently).
- Mama's decorations reach their final, powerful form.
- Conclusion: Ramadan trains your heart.
- Eid gives your heart a hug.

**March 22nd 2026, Sunday**

We had a family Eid Zoom party today! Well... not exactly a party-party, but it definitely felt like Eid. My screen looked like a patchwork quilt—Dadi and Dada in one box, Auntie Amina smiling in her new Eid hijab in another, and cousins popping in from different cities, all shouting "Eid Mubarak!" at the same time. It was LOUD. Like masjid-after-Eid-prayer loud.

Dadi made du'a for all of us to have a joyful Eid and to stay loving and thankful all year. Then Dada reminded us to keep our good Ramadan habits going... even though fasting was over. "Eid is the reward," he said, nodding very seriously. Aria showed off her Eid treat bags filled with candy, and now I want to make my own (with extra chocolate). Sami tried to explain what Eid means, but Baba jumped in to correct him before he even finished the sentence.

Then Dada leaned way too close to the camera so all we could see was his eyebrow for a full minute, while Dadi kept saying, "Amin, move back, move back!" Aaliyah Phipo popped in and out of the screen to show us the desserts she baked, and Mohammad Chacha reminded us—very seriously—to sit up straight, even on Eid... and even on Zoom.

I really miss hugging everyone and saying Eid Mubarak in real life, but the call made me feel all warm and sparkly inside-like Eid reached us through the screen.

**Ramadan Notes to My Future Self**

- Ramadan feels like the whole house wakes up earlier and whispers more.
- Suhoor is quiet, sleepy, and somehow the food tastes better at 5 a.m.
- Everyone suddenly becomes very serious about dates.
- Baba gives one life quote per day (minimum).
- Ramadan makes even small good deeds feel extra shiny.

**AMAZE MOO**

By Hasan Ahmet Gokce

Note: Moo was trying to come to his senses inside the hollow tree he had collapsed into. He couldn't tell who had waved that point under his nose so persistently. Who was it, and how did they know his name?

If he were at the farm, he'd have woken to loud barn noises and clanging bells. But something felt strange. He flinched, grunted, and tried to focus on the face in front of him. He didn't know his moo.

Y-goo, who are you?

Where did Eidels and Pillow go?

God, my head feels like a clarinet!

My name is Complaint Moo!

Buddy, I don't know where Eidels or your pillow went.

I came because of your rumble.

You bellowed all right! The forest echoed with it. I tried turning left, then right no escaped! You even said my name in your sleep. Where did you come from?

Err... more...

**Zoom: The Story of Cats**

**Pre-Reading**

- What does Islam teach us about treating animals?
- Do you think cats can understand people’s feelings? Why or why not?
- What makes cats different from other pets?

**Discussion**

- Why have humans lived alongside cats for thousands of years?
- How were cats viewed in ancient Egypt?
- What does Islam teach about kindness to animals?

**Activity**

Students design a passport stamp for each stop, such as:

- A pyramid stamp
- A paw-print stamp
- A rocket stamp
- A heart stamp for mercy

**Reflection**

Ask students:

- Which cat-history stop surprised you most?
- What does this journey teach us about caring for animals?
- How can we show mercy to animals in real life?

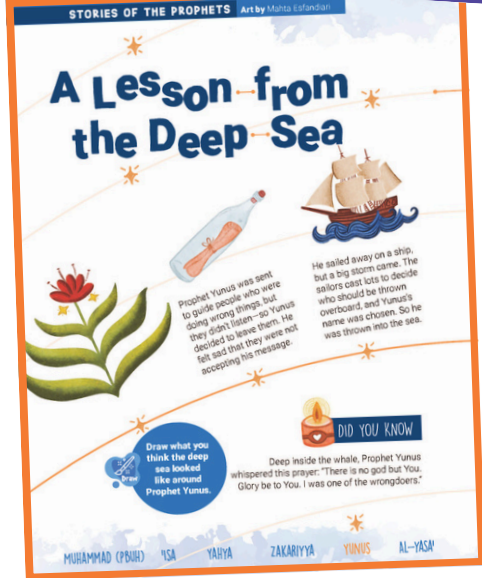
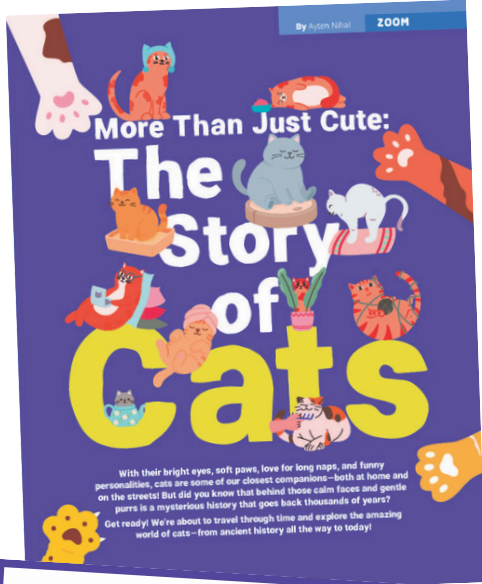
**Stories of the Prophets**

**Discussion**

- Why did Prophet Yunus (as) leave?
- What did he learn inside the whale?
- Why is it important to return to Allah after mistakes?

**Activity**

Students complete:  
 “When I make mistakes, I can \_\_\_\_\_.”



**Tech High5**

**Discussion**

- How can technology help people and animals?
- What are healthy limits for technology?
- Why is “genuineness” still important?

**Activity**

Students design:

- A helpful invention for pets
- OR
- A technology tool that solves a real-world problem

**Surah Spotlight**

**Discussion**

- Why does Allah say life includes struggle?
- What is the “steep path”?
- Why do difficult good deeds matter?

**Activity**

Students sort scenarios into:

- Easy choice
- Right choice

Then discuss which choices build stronger character.

**I was There...**

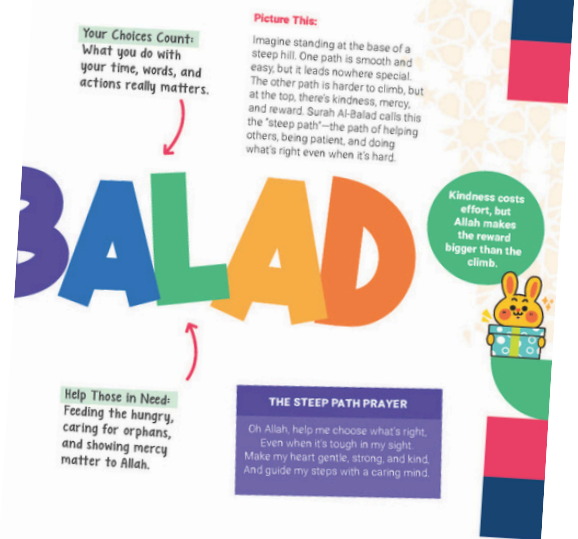
**Discussion**

- What natural features make Sri Lanka unique?
- Why are elephants important there?
- What foods and traditions stood out?

**Activity**

Students create a Sri Lanka passport page including:

- One landmark
- One animal
- One food
- One interesting fact





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