

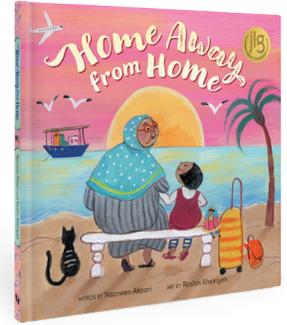


A Barefoot
Discussion
Guide

Home Away from Home Discussion Guide

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Nuha feels worried about spending the summer in Oman. Have you ever felt nervous about visiting a new place or being away from home? What made you feel that way?
2. Mama tells Nuha that Oman is her “home away from home.” What do you think that phrase means? Can you think of a place that feels like a home away from home to you?
3. When Nuha arrives in Oman, she notices many differences – the weather, the clothes people wear, and the language she hears. What are some differences you noticed in the story? How can noticing these differences help us learn about a new place?
4. Nuha’s doll, Mary, helps her feel safe and comforted. Why do you think having a special object can make new or unfamiliar situations feel easier? Do you have something that brings you comfort when you’re away from home?
5. When Nuha realizes she has left Mary behind, she feels very upset. How does Jadda help Nuha when she arrives?
6. Jadda takes Nuha to the souk, a busy market full of sights, sounds, smells, and tastes. What details from the souk stood out to you? How do these sensory experiences help Nuha begin to see Oman differently?



Home Away from Home

Written by Nazneen Akbari
Illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh



Illustration © Rashin Kheiriyeh
from *Home Away from Home*



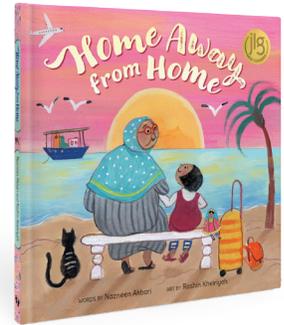
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7. As the story continues, Nuha starts to notice familiar feelings and moments of joy in Oman. What helps Nuha begin to feel more at home? How can new places become familiar over time?
8. At the souk, Nuha chooses a new doll with dark hair like Nuha, and she names her Maryam. Why do you think choosing this doll is meaningful for Nuha? How does this moment help her think differently about herself and about Oman?
9. This story is about family, culture, and belonging. What does *Home Away from Home* teach us about connecting with relatives who live far away and discovering parts of ourselves through family traditions?
10. The endnotes share more information about Oman and the souk. What is something new you learned or are curious to learn more about?



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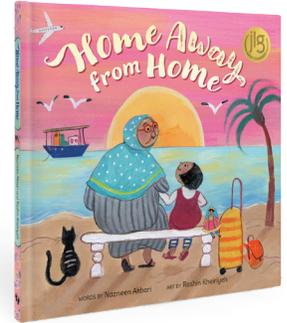
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Activity: Creating a Home Away from Home

Imagine you are visiting a place that feels new and unfamiliar. Draw a picture or write a short story about something that helps you feel at home there. This could be a person, a favorite object, a special food, or an activity. Think about how it helps you feel safe, connected, and comfortable in a new place.



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