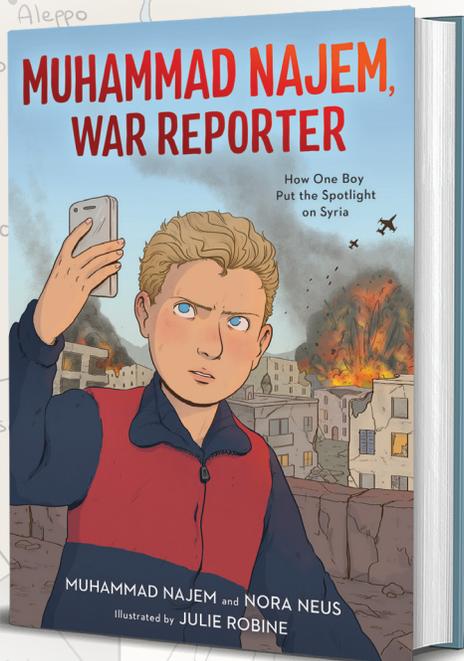


MUHAMMAD NAJEM, WAR REPORTER

MUHAMMAD NAJEM & NORA NEUS
ILLUSTRATED BY JULIE ROBINE

BOOK CLUB GUIDE

A TEENAGE BOY RISKS HIS LIFE TO TELL THE TRUTH IN THIS GRIPPING GRAPHIC MEMOIR BY YOUTH ACTIVIST MUHAMMAD NAJEM AND CNN PRODUCER NORA NEUS.



PRAISE

“INSPIRING AND EXCITING, POWERFUL AND VERY POIGNANT. I LOVED IT!”

—ANDERSON COOPER

“MUHAMMAD IS A REPORTER WHO BRINGS HOPE TO A DAMAGED WORLD.”

—JOHN BERMAN, CNN anchor

“A POWERFUL TRUE STORY THAT DEMONSTRATES THE POWER OF ONE YOUNG PERSON DETERMINED TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

—VICTORIA JAMIESON, coauthor of *When Stars Are Scattered*

“CHILDREN EVERYWHERE SHOULD READ THIS INSPIRING BOOK.”

—CLARISSA WARD, CNN Chief International Correspondent

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is Muhammad's early life like your life? Why is it important to see how Muhammad's life changes as the conflicts and violence intensify?
2. Muhammad's Baba tells him, “It's all right to be scared. Being scared means you have something worth losing” (p. 17). Does this help Muhammad? How does this empower him throughout the novel?
3. How does the graphic novel format help bring Muhammad's story to life? How does it parallel the visual storytelling from Muhammad's reporting?
4. What does Muhammad believe will happen when the world begins noticing his videos? Why is he frustrated when things don't change immediately?
5. When Muhammad starts to feel hopeless, he turns to his reporting and his followers. How does this keep him going? What motivates him when he faces such dark circumstances?
6. Despite the horrors he's witnessed and the destruction of his city, why is Muhammad reluctant to leave Eastern Ghouta? Why do some people stay behind?
7. Later in the novel, when Muhammad is given the opportunity to leave Syria, how is the choice even more difficult? Why does Muhammad want to return to Syria once he is safely in Turkey? How would you feel if you were him?
8. How does Muhammad's definition of home change over the course of the novel? Will Eastern Ghouta always be his home? Can you consider multiple places to be home.
9. At Hiba's wedding, Muhammad says, “Even within the darkness, there were moments of light. Moments of joy. Moments of peace” (p. 229). Why are these moments so important to highlight? Whether they are big milestones like a marriage, or even smaller moments, how do they help Muhammad's and his family's outlook.
10. Selim is Muhammad's best friend since he was a young boy. How does their friendship remain so strong? How does their friendship help illustrate the power of community in everyone's survival?
11. *Muhammad Najem, War Reporter* is a first-person account of the events in Syria. What kind of effect does this type of narrative have on readers learning about conflicts in other countries? How might it inspire readers who are experiencing similar struggles in their own worlds?
12. What does Muhammad's story teach you about activism? How can people of any age help enact change? Are there changes in your community, or beyond, that you would like to see? Chat with an adult and discuss ideas for how you might be able to help.



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#MuhammadNajemWarReporter

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