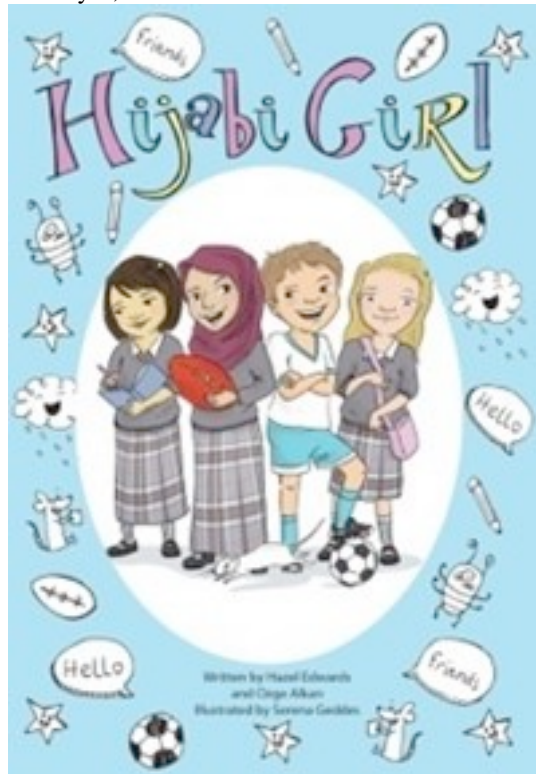


Review: Hijabi Girl by Hazel Edwards and Ozge Alkan

January 2, 2019



Category: Middle Grade

Publisher: BookPOD

Publication date: 24 February 2016

Illustrator: Serena Geddes

Blurb: Melek always finds answers, some are under her super hijab. For others she needs the help of newcomer Tien who draws fantastic worlds as an escape, or the dress-ups-guru Lily, and sometimes even soccer-mad Zac who NEVER agrees with her.

Melek solves all problems, even rescuing Zac in the pool. And luckily her fashionista mother designs club colour-coded hijabs for footy fans.

When it's the Book Character Parade, Melek can't find a book with a girl character in a hijab. With the help of her school friends, Melek makes one.

Then Melek's next challenge is to arrange an Aussie Rules Girls' football match.

Review: I often say that diversity is important in books, in many different forms. Children need to see main characters in books that not only look like them, but who also reflect the World they live. Both of my children grew up in schools where cultural diversity was the norm.

Hijabi Girl tells the story of Malek and her friends, Tien, Lily, and Zac. They are a diverse group and kids, however their differences don't make any difference to their friendship.

This book touches on a number of issues including being new at school, teasing, differences in interests and appearance, and differences in family background. These differences are accepted by all the characters.

Hijabi Girl is a wonderful snapshot of life in a modern Australian school and a very sweet story.

Website: www.hazeledwards.com