

SOMERSET GAZETTE



VOLUME 2. ISSUE 1.

Turning the page



Note from Editor-in-Chief

Dear readers,

With the grace of Allah, it is with utmost pleasure that I write the introductory note for our second volume of the newspaper for our school.

We had a phenomenal first year in 2024 and bid a sad goodbye to some of our core members as they are in matric this year. Once again, a huge huge huge thank you to:

- Maryam Ravat (2024 Managing Director)
- Fatoumata Saccouh (2024 Layout Director)
- Imaan Rawoot
- Rafeeah Kabir
- Ameera Vally Omar
- Yemen Khan
- Romisaa Fadel

You made possible the dream of the newspaper club. Remember that you were the firsts!

Consequently, we welcome a new team at the newspaper club:

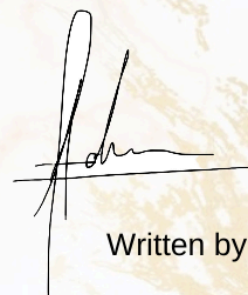
- Managing Directors - Jannat Fatima Ahmed and Rubab Zaidi
- Layout Director - Juwairiah Salim
- Ayesha Omar
- Rimsha Zulfiqar
- Rahma Diallo
- Gulnur Jorayeva
- Fatima Nanlawala
- Nazheneen Khan
- Nayab Noor
- Fatima Asif

- Ilhaam Hajat
- Saniye Babacan (part-time)
- Rumaisa Vahed
- Juwayria Dawood
- Rubayyi Akhalwaya
- Hayia Jamal

As the 2025 newspaper club, we look forward to producing the termly newspaper and we hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we always enjoying curating it.

The theme this term is appropriately ... about change, seeing as our school has recently undergone many alterations. We fondly remember those who have left our school and left a gap in our hearts; but we are also thankful for the new friends we will make this year and the challenges which lay ahead.

As always, remember the newspaper is for the students by the students - and your strength will always be your voice as a student. Whilst change is inevitable, growth is a choice you can make.



Written by: Miss Ameera

Designed by: Juwairiah Salim

SOMERSET GAZETTE

SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Meet Your Teachers



Mr Reyad Pahad

After 26 years of teaching, my passion for this job remains as strong as ever. When I'm not in the classroom, you'll find me on the field or courts, ready to show my love for sport. Family values are important to me and I already feel at home in the warm atmosphere of Nizamiye Mayfair. With good company and a great environment, this year is already off to a good start and I'm looking forward to a great year ahead.



Ms Ayesha Mahmood



Ask me to tell you about anything on Earth, and I'll make a plan to do it. But ask me about myself... that's a far more difficult task. I'll best describe myself as a daydreamer who loves mystery, fantasy and horror. I'm allergic to cats but I'll risk it all to play with any cat I see. I think that's about the most important thing you need to know.



Ms Nazli Cetin

I am pleased to return to Nizamiye School Mayfair after 20 years, as a Mathematics educator. I am especially happy to be the form teacher of Grade 11A and look forward to guiding my students through this important year. Wishing all my students a fantastic academic year ahead, filled with growth and accomplishments.

DESIGNED BY: NAYAB NOOR

Meet Your Teachers



Ms Razzia Vania

- Razzia Vania has adopted 1 son: Jameel du Plessis 29 years old
- My family means the world to me and my faith in Allah has allowed me to persevere and conquer all that life has thrown my way.
- Razzia Vania's favourite quote: "What you see is what you get."



Ms Shaheda Malek Mia

Presently I'm teaching Gr. 8 - Social Science, Gr. 9 - Islamic Studies, Grade 10 and 11 - Religion Studies and Life Orientation. Alhamdulillah, teaching is my passion and one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. What I love most about teaching is that no two days are the same. There is something to look forward to everyday. I also see teaching as a form of Sadaqah, ie. imparting knowledge, sharing ideas and showing kindness to learners. I make continuous dua that our learners in Nizamiye Mayfair become flag-bearers of Islam.



Ms Sumaya Mahmood.

This is my 7th year teaching at Nizamiye School Mayfair. I have successfully completed my bachelor's degree in business administration, followed by a masters degree in business and finally obtaining a PGCE. As an educator I use this opportunity to impart my knowledge to learners so that they can develop and grow into strong and ambitious individuals.

Meet Your Teachers



Ms Tugba Erbay

I am a Turkish teacher, teaching grades 8-9. Coffee and tea at breakfast make me happy. In my free time I enjoy playing volleyball and table tennis, as well as sewing, handcraft. After eight long years, I am embracing the joy of returning to teaching. It feels like meeting an old friend after a long journey. A new country, a new culture, a new language, and new companions on this path... A school is more than just a place of education; it is where life itself unfolds, where teaching and learning intertwine in the most beautiful way. I am grateful and at peace to embark on this journey at Nizamiye School.



Ms Hafsa Qunure

With the mercy and blessings of ALLAH, the almighty, I believe I've found my calling in inspiring young minds. What draws me to teaching is the opportunity to witness my learners' growth and see them grow into amazing individuals.

Interestingly, my teaching journey has brought me full circle, as I now teach English and a few other subjects at the very same school I attended.

Beyond the classroom, you can find me with my nose buried in a book or enjoying meaningful conversations with my students, family and friends- it's in these moments that I feel most alive.



Ms Zaeynep Akinci

I am a Qur'an and Islamic Studies teacher, and working as a Professional Student Coach and Counselor. I really love to help others, especially students.

I believe small or big whatever we do here everyday, every moment, will affect someone else's life somewhere in the world.

It is called the 'Butterfly Effect'... It can be a very small touch but has a big impact! We are all somehow connected. Let's make it 'a good' touch, a 'memorable' one..

May Allah grant me and all educators the opportunity to make valuable and beneficial touches to the lives of our students...

THE SOMERSET GAZETTE

SCHOOL AFFAIRS

THE MATRIC YEAR 2024

Class of triumph

Together, they have created memories, forged friendships, and built a legacy that will inspire future generations. As they step into the next chapter of their lives, they carry with them not only the knowledge they've gained but the spirit of perseverance that defines them. That was the year, the year where they had risen above and beyond to claim the triumphs they had worked so hard for. Here's to the Class of Triumph—united in success and ready for the future!

The Matric Class of 2024 has attained extraordinary results, having achieved a 100% pass rate. Among the matriculants, several students have achieved remarkable results. The Matric Award Ceremony was held at the Nizamiye high school hall on the 28th of January 2025. A detailed overview of the top achievers per subject is provided below:

ACCOUNTING: Aarifah Patel

BUSINESS STUDIES: Aysha Jamal

PHYSICAL SCIENCE: Juwairiyah Mehmood

COMPUTER APPLICATION TECHNOLOGY: Sharifa Jakda

MATHEMATICS: Mehmood

MATHS LITERACY: Maheera Azeem

LIFE SCIENCE: Aarifah Patel

LIFE ORIENTATION: Israa Abader and Zaakiyah Ismail

RELIGION STUDIES: Noelle Morris

HISTORY: Bushra Olow

ENGLISH HL: Shaista Alam

AFRIKAANS FAL: Shaista Alam

ARABIC: Habiba Kumalo

URDU: Sidra Shaikh

AP MATHS: Aarifah Patel

Furthermore, the prestigious DUX Award was conferred upon **Aarifa Patel** in recognition of having attained the highest overall results.

Head Girl- **Juwairiah Mehmood**

She has led an exemplary team of prefects, consistently prioritizing the well-being of the students above her own. While she may not have transformed the school physically, she has undoubtedly influenced its mindset. Her leadership has inspired many to have confidence in their abilities, not only in academic pursuits but also in navigating their entire high school journey with wisdom and purpose.

Deputy Head Girl- **Habiba Khumalo**

She has guided an exceptional year, filled with happiness and joy. Her presence was akin to that of a delightful and academically accomplished individual, always bringing lightness and humor to the school.

She consistently uplifted the spirits of students who were feeling down or lost along their journey, offering support and encouragement whenever needed. We applaud our 2024 matriculants for their hard work, which fills us with pride as fellow Nizamians! We also extend our best wishes to the 2025 matriculants and hope they will continue to make us proud.

100% Pass Rate

86% Bachelor Rate

80 Distinctions

186 A-Aggregate

8A

7A

6A

5A

WRITTEN BY: HAYIA JAMAL

DESIGNED BY: FATIMA ASIF

THE SOMERSET GAZETTE

SCHOOL AFFAIRS

PREFECTS OF 2025

WRITTEN By: RUBAB ZAIDI

Nizamiye Mayfair is proud to present our prefects of 2025, which is led by Head-girl Romisaa Fadel and Deputy Head-girls Maryam Ravat and Ayesha Omar. A prefect is defined as a senior pupil who is authorized to enforce discipline, but our prefects remain so much more. The prefects are those who represent the school and the students by helping maintain respect, understanding and communication between the school, the teachers and their peers. The head-girls have set their own goals which they wish to achieve alongside each other as well as the prefects. Some of their goals for the 2025 school year include increasing student involvement by helping the students feel heard and seen. They wish to include and assist learners in areas such as education as well as social and mental health, so they feel inspired and encouraged. They have begun planning projects that will help them achieve said goals and improve the school and learners. The head-girls, much like us, have complete faith in this year's prefect team and their abilities. They believe each prefect has their own set of skills and unique abilities, which, if utilized the right way through determination and teamwork can make the 2025 year a success and even surpass the expectations they have set.

For those looking to be future prefects it is important to note that to be a prefect you require a certain set of skills. Here are some qualities the head-girls think are important to have to become a strong leader:

Listen and stay humble.

Be able to respect yourself, only then will you be able to respect others.

Be able to get your point across in a way that is understand and related to others.

Be able to set a positive example through action and be a source of encouragement and inspiration to others

Becoming a head-girl requires a lot of responsibility as you now represent the school. For our head-girls it was not the title that interested them but rather, it was as an opportunity to uplift, inspire and serve the students and school. They wanted to contribute to the development and betterment of our school while providing a safe space for students to share their feelings. They wanted to make the same change, which previous head-girls had made in their lives, in other students lives.

A message to the Nizamiye learners is to never be afraid to approach a prefect with a problem – they will help you to the best of their abilities, without judgement. The prefects have been working tirelessly and will continue to do so, to help learners and the school. Respecting them is a crucial practice all students should adopt, along with showing gratitude and kindness for their efforts. We wish them good luck for all they have planned for the schooling year.

Our Head-girls described in 3 words:

- ROMAISAA FADEL: Determined, human and understanding.
- MARYAM RAVAT: Amiable, cheerful and optimistic.
- AYESHA OMAR: Content, pleasant and thoughtful.

ROMISAA FADEL

HEAD GIRL

MARYAM RAVAT

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

AYESHA OMAR

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

Designed by: FATIMA ASIF

HOUSE CAPTAINS



Red House

Rahma Diallo (Captain)
Maghfira Mahamed
(Co-Captain)

Blue House

Ayesha Omar (Captain)
Rubab Zaidi (Co-Captain)

Green House

Gulnur Jorayeva (Captain)
Azra Eroglu (Co-Captain)

Yellow House

Jannat Ahmed (Captain)
Zakia Jahin (Co-Captain)

PREFECTS



Headgirls (left to right top row) - Maryam Ravat (deputy headgirl), Romisaa Fadel (headgirl), Ayesha Omar (deputy headgirl)
Grade 10 prefects (Left to right second row) - Amera Zaghloul, Dado Maguiraga, Hasnaa Fadel, Rumaisa Vahed, Yumna Mahmud, Ilhaam Hajat, Zahrah Vally Omar, Saniye Babacan
Grade 11 prefects (left to right third row) - Rahma Diallo, Zakia Jahin, Jannat Fatima Ahmed, Zeenat Haq, Juwairiah Salim, Maha Shafique, Rubab Zaidi, Gulnur Jorayeva
Male prefects (left to right sitting) - Abdurrahman Irhuma, Moussa Maguiraga, Aniq Gul

Designed by: Juwairiah Salim

VOLLEYBALL

Written by: Rahma Diallo

The excitement was electric, buzzing through the air as the very first House Activities Day of 2025 kicked off with a bang! The volleyball courts were alive with energy as the four houses—red house (Fiery Phoenix), blue house (Lunar Panthers), yellow house (Glorious Griffins), and green house (Jade Dragons)—faced off in a thrilling display of athleticism and team spirit. The juniors started the action with a fierce match between red house and green house, where red house emerged victorious in a hard-fought battle. Next up, the blue house took on the yellow house, and with an impressive show of skill and bravery, blue house claimed the win, setting up an epic final between red house and blue house. In the final, the Panthers maintained their winning momentum, securing first place and leaving the competition in awe of their relentless spirit. Meanwhile, the Dragons and the Griffins fought it out for third place, with the Griffins triumphing after a match filled with determination and positive energy.



The seniors approached the court with fierce tenacity, their game faces on and ready to give it their all in the volleyball matches! The first showdown was between the Fiery Phoenix and the Lunar Panthers. After an intense and nail-biting game, the Phoenixes triumphed, securing their spot in the finals. Next, the Jade Dragons faced off against the Glorious Griffins, and after a tough, hard-fought match, the Dragons emerged victorious, claiming their place in the finals. The stage was set for an unforgettable final between the Phoenixes and the Dragons. In two exhilarating sets, red house showcased their skill, ultimately securing first place, with green house following closely behind in second. Meanwhile, yellow house and blue house battled for third place, with the Griffins claiming the win after a spirited and competitive match. It was a day full of high energy, fierce competition, and unforgettable moments that truly highlighted the spirit of House Activities Day!



SOCCER

Written by: Rubayyi Akhalwaya



The 4th of February was far more than your average soccer match day. A bright sunny day, for many exciting soccer matches taking place. It all started with the cool breeze lifting up spirits of the nervous competitors getting ready to represent their house. The atmosphere was tense but as the matches went on, it became less and less stressful.

The first match was green VS red; through a tough battle red ended up winning 8-3. Next was yellow VS blue; the sides had faced each other before yet they both still searched for a win. In the end blue won through communication and hard work, with the score being 2-1. After a break and a good hour of refreshment and hydration, with the courts surrounded by hopeful learners and proud supporters, the finals took place. Many imagined and aspired for a red and blue final battle but the tables were turned. The finals saw red vs yellow and green vs blue. The yellow team pushed hard and strived for a victory with the powerful duo of Mikaeel Kashir and Taufiq Diallo. Red took the win, which left the yellow house supporters low-spirited. The last match was green vs blue, two fan favourites fighting in a long clash. The green team with a stronger duo of Waleed Razzaq Shaikh and Ayanda Maseko, working together in complete synergy earned green a well deserved win of 7-1. Blue supporters were disappointed however proud of their team and their commitment.

Designed by: Rimsha Zulfiqar and Juwairiah Salim

TABLE TENNIS

Written by: Gulnur Jorayevea



On the 4th of February, we witnessed yet another amazing competition of table tennis from our learners. This year each house came with 4 competitors from both the senior and junior categories of girls, giving us a total of 32 competitors in total. Although most of the junior competitors were new to table tennis, all of them showed great effort and determination, leaving us proud of them for stepping out of their comfort zones and showing their great potential. Mr. Osman Babacan for the junior category and Mrs. Shaheda Mia for the senior categories were the referees for the day; each student was given a number and was matched to another number from another house, e.g. 1-5, 2-6 etc.

Due to the large amount of players, there were knock out rounds taking place from the morning up to the general knowledge quiz, around 12 o'clock. After the quiz and having a break, players came up with renewed energy and managed to awe us with their intense matches filled with competition, each player wanting to seize the number 1 title for their house.

Our finalists for the junior category were Aleena Mehmood representing blue house and Sena Akinci representing the green house, the winner being Aleena Mehmood. These players have both showed amazing skills and have brought pride to their houses for the sheer effort they put in. The finalists for the senior category were Fadila Turbe representing the yellow house and Saniye Babacan representing the green house, the winner being Fadila Turbe. They both deserve an applaud for their intense match in which they competed with very close scores. Even with the exhausting events of the day these students are commendable for their efforts, because the final match was carrying on even after school had ended. At the end of the day we are proud of each and every single student and we encourage them to join in for the amazing sport of table tennis, hoping to see even better matches in the future.

CHESS

Written by: Ilhaam Hajat



Chess is considered a sport, perhaps the most unique of all, because it is a herculean show of human talent in exercising the most crucial muscle of our body, the brain. This term, our students went one-on-one in our Chess Competition, fighting fiercely as fianchettoes and pawn chains and flying rooks unfurled over the chessboards, positions were snatched into safety, sighs of relief were exhaled after blunders were missed. Across nine intense matches, every move counted as teams battled under a structured point system. The Lunar Panthers had a fierce fighting style and unmatched bravery on the board, clashing with the defensive cunning of The Glorious Griffins. It was a tough battle, but with masterly use of chess strategies, The Jade Dragons managed to snatch the crown after a ferocious tango with Fiery Phoenix, concluding an eloquent battle on both sides.

In the end, the final standings reflected the intensity of the tournament: The Jade Dragons secured victory with 10 points, followed closely by Fiery Phoenix with 9, while The Glorious Griffins and Lunar Panthers tied at 7.

Designed by: Rimsha Zulfiqar and Juwairiah Salim

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Written by: Rubab Zaidi

Our learners once again took the stage to showcase their bright minds and teamwork with the general knowledge quiz. The quiz consisted of two rounds, for juniors and seniors, and each round consisted of 20 questions. The questions spanned a variety of topics, from geography to math, a perfect way for learners with different interests to showcase their skills. Each house showed up with a team of 3 learners and a sub; the houses battled it out to achieve top spot.



Even through the exhaustion of the day, our learners gave their all whilst cheering for their friends and teams. The hall was a mix of anticipation and excitement as the 15-second answering timer began for each house. We applaud all participants for their efforts and dedication and thank all the teachers who made the event possible. The final results were as followed:

- Juniors:**

 - 1st - Dragons
 - 2nd – Phoenixes
 - 3rd – Panthers
 - 4th – Griffins
- Seniors:**

 - 1st – Phoenixes
 - 2nd – Griffins
 - 3rd – Panthers
 - 4th - Dragons

BADMINTON

Written by: Rimsha Zulfiqar



On 22 February 2025, Nizamiye School Mayfair, hosted its annual badminton house activity featuring intense matches between the four houses. Players gave it their all, showcasing skill, strategy, and determination.

In the junior division, The Glorious Griffins claimed the title, dominating their matches with excellent coordination and precise shots. Their players maintained strong defence and demonstrated quick reflexes, securing their well-earned victory. Their ability to stay focused under pressure gave them the upper hand in crucial moments, leading them to a well-deserved win.

The senior matches were equally competitive, with The Fiery Phoenixes emerging as champions. Their team displayed remarkable momentum and teamwork, controlling the court with well-placed shots and tactical plays. The final match was particularly intense, with both teams pushing their limits. The Fiery Phoenix's precise shot placements and strategic movements gave them the edge, allowing them to secure victory.

This year's competition was a true display of skill, discipline, and sportsmanship. Each match reflected the dedication and hard work of the players, who trained tirelessly to compete at their best. The victories of The Glorious Griffins and The Fiery Phoenix highlighted the growing talent within the school's badminton teams. With such a strong performance from all houses, future competitions are guaranteed to be even more thrilling.



The final results are outlined below:

- JUNIORS**

 - 1st – Yellow
 - 2nd – Green
 - 3rd – Red
 - 4th – Blue
- SENIORS**

 - 1st – Red
 - 2nd – Green
 - 3rd – Blue and Yellow

Designed by: Rimsha Zulfiqar and Juwairiah Salim

SPELLING BEE

Written by: Taufiq Diallo

On the 25th February, Nizamiye School Mayfair hosted its 3rd annual Spelling Bee competition for house activities. The primary elimination round took place on Monday 24th February, where learners rushed to be the first to submit their written words as per the spelling lists. From here, the best of 2 learners per category (juniors and seniors) were selected to represent their houses the next day. During value period, the hall was tense as learners held their breaths and listened to each letter pronounced by their champion participants.

The competition was held in 3 rounds – the first round served as warm-up, the second round consisted of ‘seen’ words per the spelling list, and the final round consisted of ‘unseen’ words. It was a stunning display of word knowledge with the strongest readers holding on for the longest, although the third round claimed the most participants. The final junior standing was Lemariam Kassa (blue), and the senior category was championed by Zakia Jahin (yellow). Points were awarded per participant depending on which round they were eliminated, thus allowing each house fair points, and the final results follow:

JUNIORS:

- 1st – Blue
- 2nd – Red
- 3rd – Yellow and Green

SENIORS:

- 1st – Blue, Red and Yellow
- 2nd – Green



HOUSE BOARD



Designed by: Rimsha Zulfiqar and Juwairiah Salim

Q&A with Aunty Niz

Written by: Gulnur Jorayeva

Q: How do I handle the increased workload and expectations in Grade 8?

Grade 8 can feel like a big jump for many students, of course high school comes with more workload, while trying to get you to learn the foundations for matric. Find the way which helps you cope best – try to take it slow and try using tests or reports as a way of reflection. You will eventually find the most suitable method using trial and error. Remember that breaking down your work and doing it on time is the best way to deal with the workload and that procrastination will only cause you more stress.



Q: How do I balance studying for exams with fasting and Ramadan prayers?

During Ramadan it’s important that we maintain a balance between our ibadah and our studies. The best advice is to start studying as soon as possible. This doesn’t mean you should study the whole syllabus of term 1, but it would be more helpful if you break down the topics and start studying for the exams before Ramadan comes. In this way you would only have to revise the topics before the exams and this would save more time for focusing on your ibadah.

Q: How can I identify genuine, healthy new relationships?

Friendships can vary from person to person. A positive friendship could be one where you are accepted as the individual you are and not one where you’d have to change yourself in order to be accepted by your friends. Most positive friendships often form when you are around people that have the same or similar interests as you do however there are also friendships that aren’t based on common interest. Respect is an important factor when it comes to friendships; it comes both ways, so as long as you respect your friend and they respect you, there is good chance it’s a positive friendship which you will enjoy.



Q: What are some spiritual goals I can set for myself during Ramadan?

Some spiritual goals you can set up for Ramadan could be to finish reading the Qur’an, praying all of the taraweeh salahs and praying tahajjud salahs. However you could also try increasing your knowledge about any Islamic topic of your choice through reading, as it’s important that you know your religion well. Another goal could be reading the meaning of the Qur’an or the interpretations if you do not know Arabic; it’s always much more enjoyable when you understand what you are reading. Remember that consistency is important to achieve these goals.

Designed by: Saniye Babacan

Sunnah Foods

Written by: Juwayria Dawood

- Ramadan is a time for spiritual growth, self-discipline, and reflection. It's also a time to be mindful of what we eat and to nourish our bodies with wholesome foods. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) kept his diet simple but full of goodness, and many of the foods he enjoyed are known to be great for our health. Some of these are not only nutritious but also super refreshing and hydrating—just what we need after a long day of fasting.

One of the Prophet's (ﷺ) favourite fruits was watermelon. In a hadith narrated by *Abu Dawood*, he paired watermelon with ripe dates, saying, "*The heat of the one neutralises the coolness of the other.*" This shows how he balanced different foods for a healthier diet.

Why watermelon? Watermelon is made up of over 90% water, so it helps rehydrate you quickly after fasting. It's packed with vitamin C, vitamin A, and electrolytes that boost your energy levels. Watermelon has a cooling effect, which makes it perfect for Iftar on warm days.

Another Sunnah food is cucumber. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) also enjoyed cucumbers, as mentioned in a hadith where he ate cucumber with fresh dates (*Tirmidhi*). Again, this shows how he liked to balance cooling and warming foods. Why cucumbers? With over 95% water, cucumbers help keep you hydrated. Their cooling properties help soothe digestion, which is really helpful after fasting. Cucumbers are packed with vitamins and antioxidants that are great for your skin and digestion.

Other Sunnah Foods to Include in Your Iftar

- Dates – The Prophet (ﷺ) always broke his fast with dates because they give you an instant energy boost and essential nutrients.
- Barley (*Talbina*) – A nourishing porridge that the Prophet (ﷺ) recommended for strength and healing.
- Honey – Mentioned in the Quran as a natural remedy, honey is loaded with antioxidants and has antibacterial benefits.
- Olive Oil – The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "*Eat olive oil and anoint yourselves with it, for it is from a blessed tree*" (*Tirmidhi*).

Following the Sunnah when it comes to food isn't just spiritually rewarding—it's also a great way to stay healthy. By including refreshing, hydrating, and nutritious foods in our Iftar, we can break our fast in a way that's both Sunnah-inspired and beneficial for our bodies. This Ramadan, let's try to eat like the Prophet (ﷺ) did—with moderation, balance, and gratitude

Designed by: Saniye Babacan

Sunnah Recipes

Written by: Juwayria Dawood

Cucumber & Yogurt Salad

Sunnah Connection: The Prophet (ﷺ) ate cucumbers with fresh dates (*Tirmidhi*). Yogurt was also a common food.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup yogurt
- 1 cucumber (chopped)
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp dried mint
- 1 tbsp olive oil

Instructions:

1. Mix everything in a bowl.
2. Drizzle olive oil on top and garnish with extra mint.
3. Serve chilled.

Watermelon & Mint Juice

Sunnah Connection: The Prophet (ﷺ) loved watermelon and dates together (*Abu Dawood*).

Ingredients:

- 2 cups watermelon (deseeded)
- ½ cup water
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 5-6 mint leaves
- Ice cubes

Instructions:

1. Blend all ingredients together until smooth.
2. Strain if desired and serve chilled with ice cubes.

Designed by: Saniye Babacan



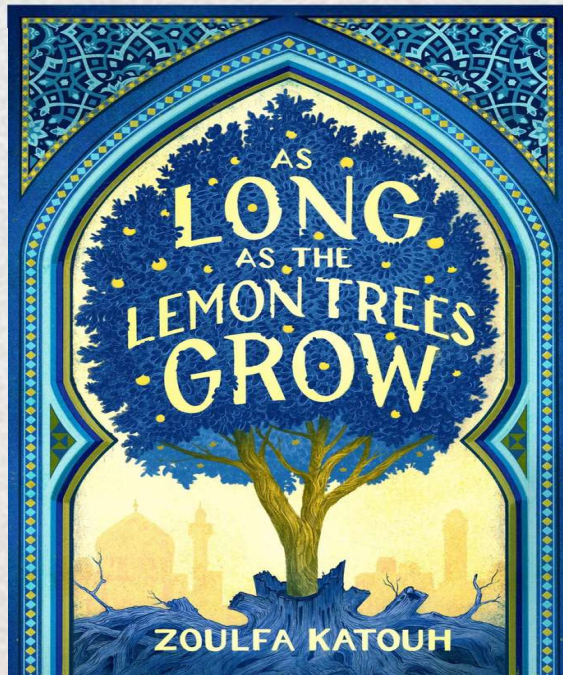
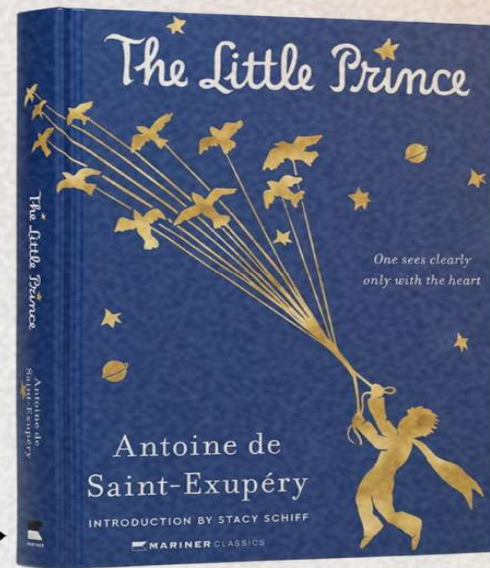
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Written by: Ilham Hajat

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Change in The Little Prince depicts a shift in point of view. A pilot lost in the desert encounters a boy from a different planet, and the love and grief he has to share alters his perception of the world. The little prince learns as well that change is never easy, but it is necessary when it comes to love and growing up.

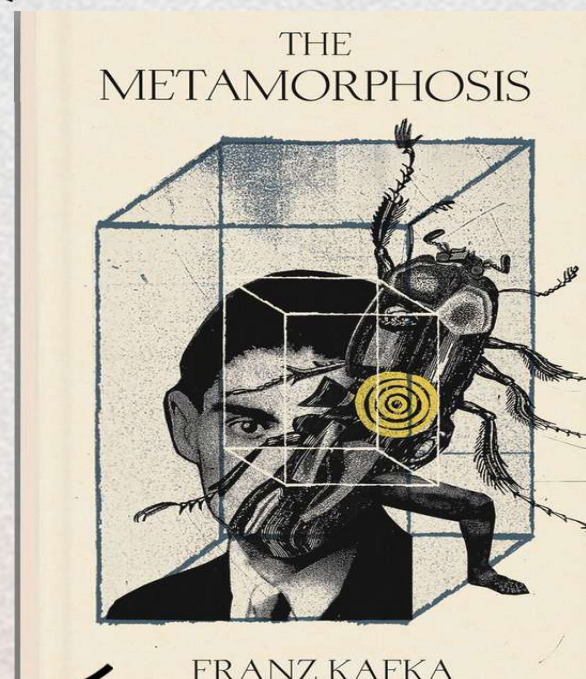


As Long As the Lemon Trees Grow by Zoulfa Katouh

In the midst of the war, Salama, a pharmacy student turned field surgeon in Syria experiences enforced change. As her universe collapses, she is faced with the option of running away or fighting for her loved ones. Through tragedy and perseverance, she learns that even in the most trying times, change has the potential to bring light.

The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

Gregor Samsa awakens as a giant bug, marking a drastic change in his life that now permanently separates him from everything around him. Kafka uses this bizarre change to tackle the cruel realities of identity and alienation, and it is a must-read for anyone who's ever felt out of place.



Designed by: Fatima Nanlawala

MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

Written by: Nazheneen Khan
Designed by: Fatima Nanlawala



Spirited away (2001)



Fantasy/adventure animation
Animated by *Studio Ghibli* and directed by *Hayao Miyazaki*, *Spirited Away* is about *Chihiro*, a 10-year old girl whose parents end up at an abandoned amusement park inhabited by the spirits of Japanese Shinto folklore. *Chihiro* must work to free her parents, who have been turned into animals, so they may return together to the normal world. *Spirited Away* was the only foreign language film ever to win an **Academy Award** for 'best animated feature film' and also received the prestigious golden bear at the **Berlin Film Festival**. The underlying message of the movie is self-development, identity and metamorphosis. *Chihiro's* journey is defined by physical, emotional and spiritual transformation that reflect the mythological theme of metamorphosis.



The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2015)

Adventure comedy
Walter Mitty, a maladaptive daydreamer, goes on a quest to find a missing negative print. He escapes his dull life by dreaming up exciting action-filled scenarios until his job is threatened and he has to set out on an actual action-packed journey. This American adventure comedy-drama is directed by *Ben Stiller* and has won the **Saturn Award** for 'best fantasy film' alongside an award for 'best actor'. The film is filled with beautiful backdrops of his journey through Greenland and Iceland, and has charming characters which capture your heart. The core theme of the movie is to live a beautiful life and not just imagine one.



#HOPEANDHEALING4 PALESTINE

Written by: Rahma Diallo
Designed by: Rumaisa Vahed

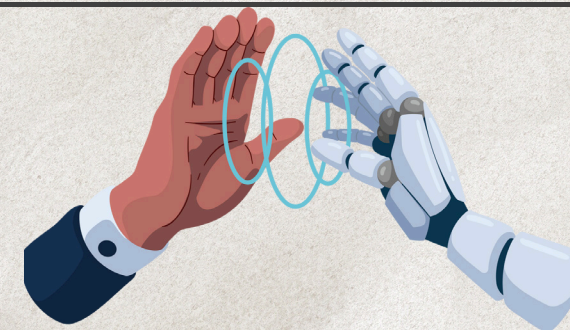
Palestinians in Gaza are experiencing a mix of relief and uncertainty following the recent ceasefire. The end of active conflict has allowed many displaced families to return home, bringing a sense of hope and reunification. However, the situation remains fragile, with Hamas threatening to halt the release of Israeli hostages, citing Israeli violations of the truce by obstructing essential

While humanitarian aid has increased, with the UN reporting a rise in the flow of shelter items and necessities, the destruction left behind remains overwhelming. Many Palestinians are struggling with the trauma of war, the loss of their homes, and the uncertainty of what lies ahead. Despite these hardships, international support continues to grow, with Arab nations rejecting proposals that undermine Palestinian rights and advocating for Gaza's reconstruction.

The global community stands in solidarity, sharing in the relief that the ceasefire brings while remaining committed to supporting Palestinians as they rebuild their lives. While we celebrate this moment of peace with them, we also recognise that true healing and justice require sustained efforts. Our support remains unwavering, and we continue to advocate for lasting peace and dignity for Palestine. #HopeAndHealingForPalestine

SINK OF CHATGPT

WRITTEN BY :RUMAISA VAHED AND ILHAAM HAJAT
DESIGNED BY: RUMAISA VAHED



Deepseek, the new and highly popular artificial intelligence, has managed to wipe the US stock markets by \$600 billion. This was right after huge companies such as Microsoft, Google and META invested over \$500 million in AI research facilities. This all began when USA decided to ban a top-level AI chip to China, similar to the TikTok ban, which did not go well. As the saying goes "Necessity breeds innovation". A small unknown research facility in China was forced to build a new AI model from scratch (we give credit to Nara Smith). This resulted in them creating an AI model even better than ChatGPT.

The catch in all of this is that it only cost them \$5.5 million, compared to OpenAI \$5 billion a year and \$100 million in training. Deepseek didn't just drop the app for free but also made it open-source, meaning anyone can update codes and services of this AI, as well as creating their own AI. The AI is being compared to the "Sputnik moment" referring to when Russia launched the first rocket into space. On the other hand, the environmental cost can be devastating.

ChatGPT has become a go-to resource for students, but it turns out this AI has a bit of a thirst problem. Recent research reveals that using artificial intelligence, for just 10 to 50 prompts can consume up to two liters of water, which is four times more than we thought. This is because data centers, where AI models like ChatGPT are located, use water-based cooling systems to handle all the heat generated by the servers.

Even though it may seem like a lot for just a handful of questions, it acts as an important reminder that our online behaviors also affect the environment. As AI technology advances, we have to ensure we couple innovation with sustainability. Even if transformational, we must consider the environmental and the economic costs of something like Deepseek. Setting the right trajectory in the future: we shouldn't only measure our progress with breakthroughs, but how we're managing their impact on our planet. So, the next time you strike up a conversation with an AI, remember, it's not just your curiosity being quenched.

MATCH DAY MAYHEM

Written by: Rubayyi Akhalwaya

Designed by: Rumaisa Vahed



Lights, camera.... Champions League. One of the most spectacular events in sports history took place on Wednesday the 29 th January 2025. Stadiums were filled with large numbers as fans stood proudly in support of their teams. The

Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions league format changed this year; when **Federal International Association of Football (FIFA)**

had decided to stream the final match day which saw all 18 league stage matches kicking off at the exact same time. 18 matches streamed live in every country all over the world at exactly 22:00 CAT.

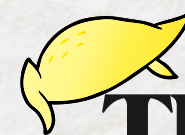


- "Match day Mayhem" fans

called it. Anticipation burst through the stadiums whether it was the *Santiago Bernabeu* holding Real Madrid's killer game or the *Etihad Stadium* holding blue shirts and huge smiles. When fans from all over gathered for their favourite matches, a few of the favourites were: *Liverpool vs PSV*, *Barcelona vs Atlanta* and *Inter Milan vs Monaco*.



Many matches were of utmost importance to fans as they faced near knockout/relegation from the competition. Truly a breath-taking night of glorious football for fans throughout...



TRUMP VS CUPCAKE



Written by: Rumaisa Vahed

Desingned by: Rumaisa Vahed

When the USA sneezes, everyone gets the flu. This saying feels true as *President Donald Trump* just signed an executive order threatening to cut off all U.S. aid to South Africa unless *President Cyril Ramaphosa* halts the land expropriation policy. This policy involves taking land from white farmers *without compensation*, and *Trump has strongly criticized it, claiming "Terrible things are happening in South Africa, the leadership is doing some horrible things"*. He also accused South Africa of allowing violent attacks on minority farmers and occupying private land.

This decision has sparked a heated debate worldwide, with many questioning whether the U.S. should cut ties with South Africa, the largest economy in Africa. Currently, the U.S. provides South Africa with billions of Rands in aid, including military support, health assistance, and help with education and preventions of HIV/AIDS prevention.

In response, South Africa's Minister of Minerals and Energy, *Gwede Mantashe*, warned that the country might stop the supply of minerals to the U.S. After Trump's threats, the South African Rand (ZAR) dropped 3.5%, sitting at R18.40 to the United States Dollar (USD).

To make matters more intense, Trump proposed a plan to resettle white South African farmers and their families in the U.S. as refugees. Meanwhile, President Ramaphosa has not directly addressed Trump's threats, despite giving a national address on February 7, 2025.

While Trump is criticizing South Africa's land policies, the U.S. has provided over \$158 billion in military aid to Israel, a country criticized for occupying Palestinian land...





RAMADAN AROUND THE WORLD



Written by: Ayesha Omar

The setting sun vanishes beneath the horizon as the call to Maghrib prayer echoes through the air. The world pauses and in homes, mosques and bustling city streets, hands reach for dates, a sip of water, and a moment of gratitude. Ramadan is not just about abstaining from food, it is about togetherness, faith and a renewed sense of devotion. At Nizamiye Mayfair, where cultures from across the globe unite, the magic of Ramadan is felt in a way that transcends borders. Students from Turkey, Pakistan, Libya, Egypt, Guinea, Mozambique, and South Africa shared how this sacred month is experienced in their homelands.



While the streets of **Turkey** are still wrapped in darkness, a *Ramazan Davulcusu* (Ramadan drummer) makes his way through neighbourhoods, beating a rhythm that signals Suhoor time. This age-old tradition is a key feature of Turkish Ramadan mornings. Iftar is a heartwarming scene of family and friends gathering over freshly baked *pide*, golden *ramazan ekmek*, and the sweet crunch of *baklava*. Taraweeh prayers draw crowds, uniting strangers in devotion. The warmth of Ramadan in Turkey is in its hospitality, there is always an open door, a seat at the table and a shared meal waiting.



Step onto the streets of **Egypt** during Ramadan, and you'll be met with a dazzling display of lights, *fanous* (lanterns) and vibrant decorations. The air hums with anticipation as families prepare dishes like *koshary* (spicy lentil rice) and *mahshi* (stuffed vegetables), filling homes with familiar, comforting aromas. Beyond the festive atmosphere, Ramadan is a deeply spiritual time, with increased Quran recitation and heartfelt prayers. It's a month where every home glows, not just with lanterns, but with the beauty of faith.



In **Pakistan**, Ramadan has its own unique rhythm, one that often includes a game of cricket before iftar. As the final minutes of fasting tick by, boys can be found playing in the streets, waiting for the call to prayer. And then, the feast begins, *Rooh Afza* paired with crispy *samosas*, crunchy *pakor*s, and sweet, tangy *fruit chaat*. Women gather for zikr sessions, and men devote themselves to *i'tikaf* in mosques. But what truly defines Ramadan in Pakistan is its warmth—no matter where you are, someone will always invite you to join in their meal.



After *Taraweeh*, **Libya's** streets come alive. Night markets buzz with energy, offering sweets and treats as families take evening strolls. Iftar tables are filled with comforting dishes like *tiramisu*, *mahalabiye* (milk pudding) and the traditional *bazeen* (barley bread), but beyond the food, what makes Ramadan in Libya special is its sense of unity. Quran reading sessions happen in schools, homes, and even workplaces. It's a time when faith is shared and families come together stronger than ever.



Ramadan in **Mozambique** is about simplicity and generosity. Families gather for iftar with *samoosas*, *nsima* (maize porridge) and juices like *Santal* and *Compal*. While women typically pray at home, the mosques are filled with men coming together in devotion. What makes Ramadan here special is the emphasis on charity ensuring that no one in the community is left behind during this sacred month.

Ramadan in **Guinea** is deeply spiritual, woven into the daily fabric of life. The early mornings begin with whispered Quran recitations, while the evenings come alive with the sizzling sounds of *beignets* (pastries) frying, the sharp scent of *gingembre* tea (ginger tea) and the rich taste of *bouillie* (wheat or millet) porridge. The true beauty of Ramadan in Guinea is the unbreakable bond between neighbours—where food, prayers, and kindness are shared freely, creating a community strengthened by faith and tradition.



Ramadan in **South Africa** is a fusion of cultural influences, also shaped by Cape Malay traditions. *Kheer* and *Sarbat* are staples at iftar, alongside classic savory treats like *chili bites* and warming soups like *haleem*. But more than the food, Ramadan in South Africa is about community. Charity efforts multiply, ensuring that no one goes hungry. The mosques are packed for *Taraweeh*, creating an atmosphere where the spirit of Ramadan is felt in every home, every gathering and every act of kindness.

Across countries and cultures, Ramadan carries the same message of humility, sacrifice and devotion. At Nizamiye, this spirit comes alive as students from different backgrounds break fast together, swap stories of home, and stand shoulder to shoulder in prayer. It is here that the beauty of Ramadan is truly realized not in the differences, but in the shared moments of worship and community.



RAMADAN MUBARAK

At the end of the day, it's not always about where you celebrate Ramadan—it's about how you celebrate it. And at Nizamiye, we celebrate it together.



Designed by: Juwairiah Salim

Laylatul Qadr: The Night of Power

Imagine a night so sacred, so blessed, that the heavens open their gates, and the angels descend to earth. A night when prayers are accepted, sins are forgiven, and the rewards for good deeds are multiplied beyond comprehension. This is Laylatul Qadr, the Night of Power.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LAYLATUL QADR:

Laylatul Qadr is one of the most revered nights in the Islamic calendar. It is believed to be the night when the Quran was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in 610 CE. Allah describes this night in the Quran:

"Verily, We have sent it [the Quran] down in the Night of Decree." (Quran 97:1) The immense value of this night is emphasized in another verse:

"The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months." (Quran 97:3)

This means that any act of worship performed on this night is equivalent to over 83 years of devotion. It is a night of immense mercy, blessings, and opportunities for spiritual elevation.

The Role of Angels on Laylatul Qadr

Laylatul Qadr is believed to fall within the last ten nights of Ramadan, particularly on the odd nights: the 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, or 29th. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) advised: "Seek it in the last ten nights, and seek it in the odd nights." (Bukhari)

How to Observe Laylatul Qadr:

ONE OF THE UNIQUE ASPECTS OF LAYLATUL QADR IS THE DESCENT OF ANGEL JIBREEL AND OTHER ANGELS TO THE EARTH. ALLAH MENTIONS THIS IN SURAH AL-QADR: "THE ANGELS AND THE SPIRIT (JIBREEL) DESCEND THEREIN BY PERMISSION OF THEIR LORD FOR EVERY MATTER." (QURAN 97:4)

THIS DESCENT IS A SIGN OF ALLAH'S MERCY, AS THE ANGELS SPREAD PEACE AND BRING BLESSINGS UPON THOSE ENGAGED IN WORSHIP AND SUPPLICATION.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) recommended a powerful supplication for this night:

"ALLAHUMMA INNAKA 'AFUWWUN TUHIBBUL-'AFWA FA'FU 'ANNI."

("O Allah, You are the One who forgives greatly, and You love forgiveness, so forgive me.")

The Virtues of Zikr (Dhikr) on Laylatul Qadr:

- PURIFYING THE HEART AND SOUL.
- STRENGTHENING FAITH AND CONNECTION WITH ALLAH.
- BRINGING INNER PEACE AND TRANQUILITY.
- SEEKING FORGIVENESS AND MERCY.
- INCREASING BLESSINGS AND PROTECTION FROM HARM.

When is Laylatul Qadr?

- RECITE AND REFLECT ON THE QURAN.
- PERFORM EXTRA VOLUNTARY (NAFL) PRAYERS.
- ENGAGE IN CONSTANT DHIKR (REMEMBRANCE OF ALLAH).
- GIVE CHARITY AND PERFORM ACTS OF KINDNESS.
- SEEK FORGIVENESS AND MAKE HEARTFELT DU'AA (SUPPLICATION).

Special Prayers for Laylatul Qadr:

- SALATUL HAAJAH (PRAYER OF NEED): A TWO-RAK'AH PRAYER TO SEEK ALLAH'S GUIDANCE AND HELP.
- SALATUL TASBIH (PRAYER OF GLORIFICATION): A FOUR-RAK'AH PRAYER FILLED WITH TASBIH.
- DU'AA FOR GUIDANCE: "ALLAHUMMA INNI AS'ALUKA AL-HUDA WA AL-TAWFIA WA AL-'AFIYAH." ("O ALLAH, I ASK YOU FOR GUIDANCE, SUCCESS, AND WELL-BEING.")
- DU'AA FOR PARENTS AND BELIEVERS: "RABBI IGHFIR LI WA LI-WALIDAYYA WA LIL-MU'MININA YAWMA YAUQUMU AL-HISAB." ("MY LORD, FORGIVE ME, MY PARENTS, AND THE BELIEVERS ON THE DAY OF RECKONING.")

Some recommended zikr include:

- RECITING "SUBHANALLAH" (GLORY BE TO ALLAH) 100 TIMES.
- RECITING "ALHAMDULILLAH" (PRAISE BE TO ALLAH) 100 TIMES.
- RECITING "ALLAHU AKBAR" (ALLAH IS THE GREATEST) 100 TIMES.

Laylatul Qadr is a night of unmatched blessings, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal. It is an opportunity to seek closeness to Allah, reflect on one's faith, and secure immense rewards. As this sacred night approaches, may we dedicate ourselves to worship, seek Allah's mercy, and embrace the countless blessings it offers. May Allah accept our prayers and grant us the opportunity to experience Laylatul Qadr. Ameen!

CHAnge...

Change, a new path from Allah's hand

A chance to learn, to grow, to stand

At every turn, a lesson we find

A chance to renew, to leave the past behind...

Like autumn leaves, our lives change too

We let go of things that we once held true

We see the beauty of surrendering our will

To Allah's plan, which is always good and still

The Quran tells us, "After hardship comes ease"

A promise that change, though hard, will bring peace

It brings chances for growth, for love, for care

And helps us to be stronger, to show we truly care

Like the moon, our lives go through phases too

But Allah is always the same, forever true

He is our Rock, our Guide, our shining Light

Helping us through change, day and night

So let us welcome change, with hearts open wide

And trust that Allah's plan is always for our best inside

For in change, we find a chance to grow

Closer to Allah, and to our true selves, we know

So let us welcome change, with hearts open wide

And trust that Allah's plan, is always for our best inside

For in the beauty of change, we find a chance to grow

Closer to our Lord, and to our true selves, we know

Written by: Sumaya Jamaal

CHANGE

Written by: Saniye Babacan

Change is often seen as something we fear or resist. It's easy to feel comfortable in the familiar, and the idea of stepping into the unknown can be intimidating. However, change is an essential part of life and often leads to personal growth and new opportunities.

Change, though, pushes us out of our comfort zone. It encourages us to challenge ourselves and try new things. This could mean anything from learning a new skill to making a new friend or exploring a new place. Each change, big or small, builds a foundation for a better version of ourselves.

Of course, change can also be tough. Small, steady steps can lead to big transformations. With time, what once felt like a challenge can become a part of our new normal, and we'll look back and see how far we've come.

Embracing change is the key to moving forward, and as we do, we open ourselves to a world of possibilities. So, rather than resisting change, we should welcome it with open arms, because who knows where it might take us next?

Designed by: Juwairiah Salim

Change
is
scary



DRAWN BY: NAZHENEEN KHAN

Ramadan Calendar

A challenge to success



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Day 1: Start a gratitude journal. Fill in three things you're grateful for daily.	Day 2: Read the Holy Qur'an with translation and tafseer.	Day 3: Read your salaah with the English translation in mind.	Day 4: Practice Taqwa by giving up gossiping and other indulging sins.	Day 5: Donate clothes, toys and shoes to those in need.	Day 6: Perform an act of kindness towards an animal or person.	Day 7: Cook or buy a meal and distribute it to the needy.
Day 8: Read Ayatul Kursi after every Fard salaah.	Day 9: Volunteer at a soup kitchen or animal shelter.	Day 10: Read 'Subhaan Allaah wa bi hamdihi' every morning and evening 100 times.	Day 11: Respect and be considerate of your parents and elders. RESPECT	Day 12: Encourage your peers to do good.	Day 13: Plant a tree.	Day 14: Distribute a copy of the Holy Qur'an.
Day 15: Teach a skill to someone. TEACH	Day 16: Forgive someone who has wronged you and seek forgiveness from someone you have wronged.	Day 17: Spend quality time with your parents, elders and siblings.	Day 18: Invite someone over for Iftaar.	Day 19: Take a nap and avoid sin.	Day 20: Pray Tahajud during the last 10 nights.	Day 21: Read surah Kahf every Friday.
Day 22 : Read about the Prophets (peace be upon them) and learn lessons from their stories.	Day 23: Learn a new dua and incorporate it into your daily prayers. LEARN	Day 24: Make at least a 100 sincere istighfaar daily.	Day 25: Invite your neighbors for iftaar.	Day 26: Learn a new short surah for salaah.	Day 27: Pray for deceased family members.	Day 28: Watch Islamic videos to increase in knowledge.
Day 29: Always see the good in people.	Day 30: Make sincere dua to Allah for forgiveness and guidance.					

Tips to complete this challenge:

- ☾ Make an intention to do everything for the sake of Allah.
- ☾ Follow the Sunnah of the Prophet.
- ☾ Stop Backbiting.
- ☾ Give charity no matter how big or small or in what form.
- ☾ Read an Islamic book.

رَمَضَانُ مَبْرُكٌ

RAMADAN MUBARAK

Written by: Jannat Ahmed

Designed by: Juwairiah Salim

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