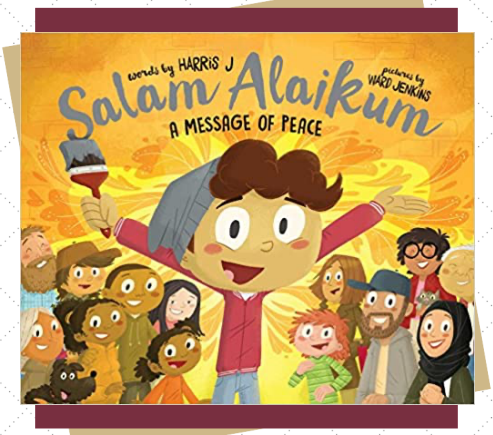

BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

Salam Alaikum: A Message of Peace by Harris J

Book Summary

Salam Alaikum means *Peace be upon you.* It is the greeting used by Muslims around the world to say hello and good-bye. The message is of spreading peace on the earth, treasuring the love, and always being kind. In this story, you see the power of paying it forward and celebrating acts of kindness in a community through Harry J's catchy lyrics and vibrant pictures.

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book.
- Make predictions on what the story may be about.
- Salam Alaikum is pronounced: (Suh-lom) (Uh-lay-come)
- Listen to Harry J's song "Salam Alaikum" before reading, in order to make connections to the song and the story.
- Let's flip through all of the pages of the story before reading.

Target Vocabulary

- **message**: a communication in writing, in speech, or by signals
- **spread**: to become or cause to become widely known
- **spectacular**: especially great, amazing, or sensational
- **peace**: a state of quiet, harmony, and freedom
- **cherish:** to keep with care and affection
- **treasure**: to value highly
- **surround**: to form in a circle around
- **remind**: to cause (someone) to remember someone or something

BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child retell the story in their own words using the pictures.
- Listen to Harry J's song "Salam Alaikum" again. Try to sing the words from the book using the same beat.
- Discuss ways you like to have a good time.
- Flip through all of the pages again and point out an example of spreading kindness.
- Brainstorm with each other one way to spread kindness to someone today.

Example Questions to Ask

- "You can try to turn off the sun, I'm still going to _____ away."
- What did the little boy give to the woman in the park to spread kindness?
- What happens when one person spreads peace throughout the story?
- Who do you cherish in your life? What do you cherish about them?
- How do you think the woman felt after the boys saved her cat from the tree?
- What is one person or thing that makes you feel thankful?
- What is your favorite feel-good song? Let's sing it together!