

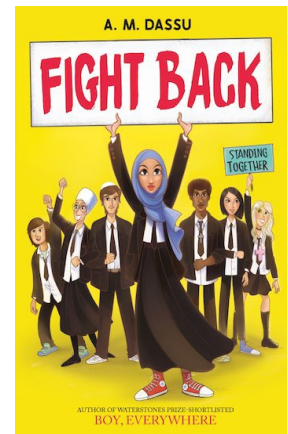
Little Rebels Exploring Social Justice

Fight Back

by A. M. Dassu
Scholastic

The second novel from our 2021 Little Rebels Award winner (with *Boy, Everywhere*)! Political activism forms this novel's backbone as Aaliyah and her classmates take on Islamophobia and racism and advocate for free expression through sit-in protests and public speaking.

Shortlisted for the 2023 Little Rebels Book Award



Social Justice Themes: Islamophobia; Solidarity; Diversity; Well-being

Things to talk about

- The novel is set at a time when London has been experiencing terrorist attacks. What impact is this having on Aaliyah, her family and other characters in the story?
- What do you understand about Aaliyah's reasons for wearing a hijab? Why do you think her Mum is hesitant?
- Stereotyping and its consequences is an important theme in the novel. What is stereotyping? Why do many people think in terms of stereotypes? How does it affect some of the characters in the novel?
- Read chapter 30. Aaliyah and her friends are challenging the school ban by using silent protest. Do you think this is effective? What other sorts of protest could they engage in?
- The novel is called 'Fight Back' and conflict is a recurring motif. Examine the examples of conflict you come across and what form they take. Have you learnt anything from these examples?

Activities

- Read the Author's Note at the back of the book. Compose a list of questions that you would like to ask A. M. Dassu.

Extended

- A recent report by the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief found that suspicion, discrimination and outright hatred towards Muslims has risen to 'epidemic proportions.' Visit <https://www.un.org/en/observances/anti-islamophobia-day> to learn more about Islamophobia specifically but other forms of discrimination and intolerance more broadly.

For more information about The Little Rebels Book Award visit littlerebels.org