

Hijabi Girl

This script can be produced with minimal preparation and few props.

Or a more elaborate Book Character Parade with ALL students is possible for Book Week.

Curriculum Links

Cultural Diversity, School life, Friends, Imaginative problem solving, Coping with bullies, Sport and Food.

Setting

Mainstream Australian school yard which becomes a classroom.

Running Time

35 minutes

Age Group

Primary to lower secondary

Technical Crew

Props Crew make or find props.

SFX team pre-record noises/music.

Costume-organiser

Backstage Crew set up and move props quickly.

Lighting Crew

Choreographer creates dance/gymnastic routines.(optional)

T.V. Crew to film. (optional)

SFX pre-recorded

www.hazeledwards.com

School bell.

Playground noise

Optional 'catwalk' music for book characters.

End of recess song. your choice or original 'Hijabi Girl' song

Costumes

Suggestions are included but actors can create their own.

Cast

Number of actors 10 but with elastic choruses 30.

Narrator .Storyteller with BIG book

Melek, wears a hijab. 1. In school colours & 2. In footy club colours.
Sports bag with Burkini culturally modest swimsuit.

Tien, awesome illustrator. New student from Vietnam. Front tooth missing.

Lily, 'dress-ups' queen & loves historical stuff. Bit of a princess.

Zac who thinks he knows everything, especially about soccer. Rattus
Rattus is his pet rat.

Rattus Rattus the Reading Rat Actor, chorus or soft toy or imaginary.

Miss Teacher. Very encouraging, with BIG glasses. Dresses up as Very
Hungry Caterpillar for Book Parade.Red high heels.

Hijabi Barbi doll could be doll or student

Principal

Lifeguard.

Choruses played by one actor or a group.

Clock Chorus... can mime time with bodies.

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Students' Chorus dress up as favourite Book Characters including Cranky Bear, Diary of a Wombat, Cake-eating Hippo, SpiderMen.

Halal Food Chorus

Pencils' Chorus, including maroon colour. Able to march and rap.

Parents' Chorus, with mobile phones/cameras

Props

BIG book 'Hijabi Girl'.

School hat which rolls across stage. Or is pulled?

Blue table and 5 chairs.

Poster. CHOOSE FRIENDS BY THEIR CHARACTER AND SOCKS BY THEIR COLOUR.

Rainbow Reading Chair with big arms.

White/blackboard for listing words

Food; Rice rolls. Pide bread.

Sports bag with bathers & Hijabi Barbi

Microphone.

Sign The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Bag of colourful hijabs. Zac's bag to carry Rattus Rattus

Footballs Aussie Rules & soccer

Book Parade notices.

Long blue sheet or roll of paper to be the swimming pool water.

Cartoon Sketches Super Hijabi Fish cartoon, Insect with Double Eyes. Miss teacher.

Script Hijabi Girl

SETTING School Playground with gate

CLOCK CHORUS

mime clock, using hands

8. 40.

8.41.

8. 42.

NARRATOR Almost school time!
I'm the Narrator.

School hat rolls across the stage

I'm going to share the story of 'Hijabi Girl'.

In slow-motion, Melek chases the run-away hat, then FREEZES

CHORUS That's her. She used to be the new kid.

NARRATOR Her name is Melek. She was the first to wear
a hijab at this school.

CHORUS *circling*
Why are you wearing a towel on your head?
Have you got cancer?
Do you take it off in the shower?
Are you bald?
What's your name?

NARRATOR Her name is Melek

CHORUS Me-----l---ek?

MELEK

UNFREEZES pleads to audience

Try to get my name right.

CHORUS

Melly?

Mel?

Does it rhyme with Smart Aleck? MELEK?

MELEK

I love school. I don't want to be late. I might miss something. Now, who owns this hat?

CLOCK CHORUS

8.45...

NARRATOR

Tien. This is the new girl. It's her first day.

MELEK catches school hat and offers to TIEN

MELEK

Here's your NEW uniform.

TIEN

It's second hand.

MELEK

kindly

Easier to wear. You won't stick out. Do you like my hijab in school colours?

Hurry up. Jog.

TIEN

Can't jog AND talk, Melek

Don't want to be late.

MELEK

I'm never late. Hate to miss anything..

SFX Playground noise

MELEK

Thanks for saying Melek right. Kids make fun of my name. I don't like that. What's yours?

TIEN

Tien

MELEK

What language is it? My name is Turkish. My name means Angel.

TIEN

pants So does mine, in Vietnamese.

MELEK

We sure don't look like twins.

TIEN

laughs We're not.

MELEK

At first, no-one got my name right. Zac joked about me wearing a towel on my head. I'll keep an eye on him for you.

TIEN

An eye?

MELEK

I'll look out for you. Hurry. I'll show you the school office.

SFX School bell.

CLOCK CHORUS

9 o'clock.

All students line up. Zac smuggles Rattus Rattus in his backpack.

MELEK.

Miss! A new girl. Her name is Tien, You say it like 'a cup of tea'.

MISS.

Thanks Melek. I know. The principal will bring Tien in soon.

Melek sits at her table group with Zac

LILY

Miss has new glasses.

MELEK

Might see things she missed last week. Like Zac hiding wildlife under our table.

Rat moves under backpack

MELEK Did that bag move Zac?

ZAC Maybe.

MELEK Be kind to the new girl Zac. Or else... I'll hide your soccer ball forever, in outer space, in another time zone, and another galaxy. And our Aussie Rules Girls team will win more matches than your soccer.

ZAC That team is only in your head.

Miss lists words in different colours on board

LILY What is the new girl like, Melly?

MELEK She didn't say much.

ZAC. No chance with HER talking. *points at Melek.*

MISS. Shhh. T is for Talkative. Is that on your A to Z homework? 26 ways to describe each other.

ZAC. I had N for Noisy.

MISS

looks through her new glasses as if children are suddenly MUCH bigger

Compliments are nice things to say about a person. Insults are bad things.

LILY How about A for Annoying?

MISS Anyone can be annoying, sometimes. Even teachers. Especially with new glasses.

All laugh

MELEK Did the words have to be in English? My parents speak four languages, but they don't understand playground words.

ZAC Like the ones I use?

MISS Use English. What are 26 words your family and friends use to describe you, Zac? A for...?

ZAC They can't spell Awesome.

Rat wriggles out of Zac's bag, runs around across CHOOSE FRIENDS BY THEIR CHARACTER AND SOCKS BY THEIR COLOUR poster.

MISS *moves her glasses down her nose* What's THAT moving?

ZAC Rattus Rattus. He was in my bag but he wanted an adventure.

Melek jumps on her chair, grabs Rattus Rattus from the window ledge, strokes him and puts in Zac's bag on the Reading Chair.

MELEK R for Roaming Rat who is Reading.

Friendly laughter

Principal and Tien walk in

ZAC A is for Adventurous.

All laugh

MELEK *points to empty chair at her table.*

MISS Welcome Tien. Maybe you'd like to sit with Melek?

LILY

Hi Tien.

Tien smiles Her front tooth is missing.

LILY

When I lost MY front tooth, The Tooth Fairy paid me \$10. She didn't have any coins.

MELEK

This is Zac. Our Blue Table will win the most points this term, right Zac?

ZAC

shrugs Whatever.

MELEK

Love your pencils Tien.

Tien puts out her pencils

PENCIL CHORUS

start to rap.

We are the pencils.

We draw here.

We draw there.

We draw everywhere.

I'm gold.

I'm silver

I'm red.

I'm rainbow.

MELEK

So many colours. ...

ZAC

No maroon pencil. So you can't draw our school soccer team.

MELEK

Our girls' Aussie Rules team will have school colours too.

TIEN

What is this maroon?

LILY

The colour of our uniform. Sort of dark reddish- purple.

TIEN

Sketching

Like Melek's hijab?

MELEK

nods

Do you draw much?

TIEN

Drawing is the only thing I like. Pictures tell stories faster than words. What does this picture tell you?

Shows cartoon of MISS

Students giggle..

SFX Playground noise.

MELEK

Let's eat over there.

TIEN

opens rice paper rolls

MELEK

I've got pide with fetta cheese inside. It's a type of Turkish bread. What have you got?

TIEN

hands roll to Melek

Rice paper roll. My dad made heaps of them trying to find a new recipe for his restaurant. Want one?

MELEK

There are things I can't eat. Does it have meat in it?

TIEN

Yes, Pork.

MELEK

Can't eat pork. I can't eat meat that is not halal.

HALAL CHORUS

dance on.

H is for...

A is for

L is for

A is for

L is for.

HALAL!

MELEK

Try some of mine. Does your dad run a restaurant?

TIEN

]

sighs

He is opening a new one. V for Vietnam. Do you like the name?

MELEK

Miss will like that for her list.

TIEN

His old restaurant went broke. More Vietnamese people live around here.

MELEK

Sorry your family restaurant didn't do well. But I am glad you came here so we got to meet. I would like to try Vietnamese food. But does all Vietnamese food have pork in it?

TIEN

No. We have lots of different kinds of
Vietnamese food.

SFX School bell.

Then song. Insert own

TIEN

What's that song?

MELEK

We need to line up before the music ends.
Miss doesn't like it when we are late.

TIEN

Your school is very keen at being on time.

MELEK

It's YOUR school now too.

TIEN

MMMm.

MELEK

That's the same in all languages.

SFX School bell.

MELEK

Look how I do exercises. My hijab doesn't fly
out. Let's kick the footy.

TIEN

I've never played Girls' Aussie Rules before.

MELEK

We have local rules. I made them up. Why
don't you leave your pencils here at school?
We have art tomorrow.

PENCIL CHORUS

start to rap.

We are the pencils.
We draw here.
We draw there.
We draw everywhere.

I'm gold.

I'm silver

I'm red.

I'm rainbow.

TIEN

I draw all the time, I want my pencils with me.

MISS

Home time. Here are the Book Parade forms.

Dress up as your favourite book character. We might win the 'Best Dressed Class' prize.

ZAC

stuffs his form in his backpack.

Do we HAVE to dress up Miss?

MISS

Yes Zac, Use any props you like.

ZAC

Live props?

MISS

Just don't use the excuse 'My rat ate my Book Parade note.

All laugh

MISS

AND don't forget your swimming gear.

Tomorrow is swimming lessons.

MISS

winks Did Rattus borrow your bathers for his Olympics swimming training, again ?

ZAC

No Miss. He has his own bathers. In school colours.

PROPS

Move Blue Sheet like waves for pool water. Students walk on with sports bags.

LILY

Can you swim Tien?

Tien nods

MELEK

How far?

Girls get changed

TIEN

The length of that pool. 25 metres. Do YOU wear your hijab when you swim, Melek?

MELEK

opens sports bag

I have a special swimsuit. So does my Hijabi Barbi. Look.

TIEN

Is her hair as long as yours? Do you ever get it cut?

MELEK

Yes. And I wash it in the shower.

LILY

I love changing her clothes. Does Hijabi Barbi have swimsuits like yours too?"

MELEK

Have a look. My Mum designs clothes.

TIEN

For dolls?

MELEK

No, for Muslim ladies. She's designing our Aussie Rules team clothes too.

TIEN

What is her shop called?

MELEK

Hijabi Fashionista. The shop isn't open yet. She works from home.

TIEN

That's hard for me to say, and spell.

LILY

I just say her Mum's job.

MISS

takes off glasses

Windscreen wipers for glasses. Our next
Science project.

Tadpoles over here. Zac. Lily. Line up.

ZAC

I could do 'butterfly' in the big pool, if I
wanted to. But today I might just dog-paddle.

LIFEGUARD

counts children

18. 19. 20.

*Melek comes from changing room in her swimsuit which covers
all her body*

MISS

checks names on list

SHARKS can swim to the other side, now.

PROPS CHORUS

WITH BLUE SHEET

Up and down.

Up and down.

Lap

Lap

Lap.

Splash

Splash

Splash.

Kick

Kick

Kick

MELEK

dives in strongly. Other SHARK good swimmers follow

LILY

nurses doll

Hijabi Barbi is a Tadpole, like me.

ZAC

I'm only in the Tadpoles today because I hurt my leg playing soccer. See. I can still run like Action Man.

MISS

Don't run.

Zac runs, slips and falls in deep end. Goes under once.

ZAC

Help! Melek!

MELEK

swimming

I'm coming.

Melek tows Zac to the edge. Miss and Lifeguard pull them out.

The other SHARKS crawl out too.

ZAC

crossly

Why did you do that Melek?

MELEK

panting

Because you were in trouble. And you used my name!

ZAC

I was being Action Man. A for Action.

MISS

wipes her glasses

A is for Abysmally Dangerous Behaviour.

TIEN

Melek is Super Hijabi Fish. And I'm going to draw her.

Holds up Super Hijabi Fish cartoon

MISS

Friday is the Book Parade. Dress up as a character from your favourite book.

TIEN

draws an insect with double eyes

I don't like reading.

LILY

Mum bought me a special princess costume. I love reading princess books. What will you come as, Tien?

TIEN

signs her name on sketch.

Do we HAVE to come as a book character?

ZAC

Duh.

MELEK

Tien can come as any character as she wants.

looks at the insect drawing.

Cool Bug.

MISS

50 points for their table. For the best dressed. The most imaginative. Not the one which costs the most.

looks at Lily.

LILY

My Mum got the princess dress on E-bay.

MELEK

My Mum designs and sews our clothes.

LILY

Lots of girls like Princess dress-ups. And they ALWAYS win.

MISS

We have lots of imagination in this class, eh Zac? Too many imaginative excuses. What's this?'

Sees Cool Bug picture.

Would you like to pin that up with our Corridor of Characters, Tien? We did Monsters last week.

ZAC

It's a 'Selfie'.

Students giggle and muck around

MISS

Blue table, I am taking away ten points. Your pencils are still all over the table Tien.

ZAC

Great, Tien. You already lost us ten points, not that I care about the stupid competition.

takes his snack and scuffing shoes, lines up

MELEK

Pats Tien on the shoulder

Zac wants to go to a soccer game. The winning table chooses the school excursion. I am going to win best dressed and get us all the points back! Mum says I can come as Little Red Riding Hood, but I want to be something MORE exciting.

Throws up her arms dramatically

Like the first Aussie Rules Girls' Footy player. Super Girl.

TIEN

shakes head

No. I am not like you. I don't like reading.

ZAC

Hey Tien, high five over here! I don't like reading either!"

walks out the door.

SFX Noisy

Growling, Cranky Bear chases students.

PARENTS CHORUS

hold up mobiles to take photos.

What are you doing on your hands and knees?

STUDENT

I'm Diary of a Wombat. Just practising wombat walking, in slo-mo.

MISS

As Very Hungry Caterpillar with BIG glasses and red high heels.

This is my BIG book of things to eat.

LILY

That's Miss!

Lily's dress snags on a nail and unravels.

HIPPO STUDENT

eats cake

MISS

Don't eat all your cake. That's your prop
Hold your favourite book under your arm, in case we can't guess. Classes take it in turns.
Grade 1.
Gum Nut Fairies and Bees first.

Lily trips on unravelling Princess dress.

Students act their book characters.

MELEK

pulls pins from her Super Hijab to pin Lily's dress.

For you, Princess Lily. Costume fixed.

LILY

Thanks Melly.....er Melek.

MISS

Line up!

HIPPO STUDENT

I'm the hippo on the roof who eats cake.

ZAC

Where's your roof? You need a prop.

HIPPO STUDENT

Where's YOUR costume Zac?

ZAC Haven't got one.

Rattus Rattus peeks out of Zac's school shirt

HIPPO STUDENT But you've got Rattus Rattus. He's a prop.

MELEK Did you forget your costume on purpose, Zac?

ZAC What? Can't hear you.

AW!

Five 'recycled' Spidermen fell off the wall, loudly.

TIEN I've got pencils. And paper.
If Zac doesn't have a costume, our table will
lose. And so will the class. Quick Melek.
What's a book, in English, with a rat in it?

MELEK Three Blind Mice?

TIEN Rattus isn't blind and there's only one of him.

MELEK There's a German story, set in Hamelin. Will
that do? Lots of rats. About a piper. I'll write
the name on your paper. Grab this Zac. We're
on next.

Rattus Rattus perches on Zac's head.

MELEK Hold that up in front of you. Then Miss can't
complain about Rattus Rattus. He's a prop.

ZAC Who is the Pied Piper?

TIEN & MELEK

together

You.

ZAC Was he a goodie or a baddie?

MELEK The rats all followed him out of the town.

ZAC

goes up to microphone holding his sign.

MISS Welcome to the Pied Piper of Hamelin?...And his rat.

ALL CLAP

MISS Very imaginative Zac. The Pied Piper of Hamelin saved the town which had a rat problem. He played his pipe and the rats followed his music out of the town. But when the town didn't pay him, as promised, he played again and all the Hamelin children followed him too

Zac bows to audience. Rattus Rattus falls off and leaps into audience.

Parents shriek. Students run. Spiderman boys climb the wall to get Rattus Rattus back.

MISS The Pied Piper called Zac certainly moved these children.

LILY I'm next. Princesses ALWAYS win Book Parades.

ZAC Not if Miss is judging.

Tien and Melek walk up as a team for the one book character.

MISS

Who is your favourite character AND which is your favourite book?

MELEK

Super Hijabi Girl Plays Aussie Rules Football.

MISS

Do you have a copy of the book?

MELEK

Not yet. I have to write it. Tien has some sketches. And my Mum designed this costume. And here's my bag of ideas. These Super Hijabs can be used in many ways.

Melek pulls extra hijabi scarves from her Ideas Bag.

A super cape for Jack or Zac.

Butterfly wings for Ruby or Lily.

An Australia Day flag for special days.

A book shade for Miss Library.

Or a hijabi in colours for the footy-fan.

They will all be in the book Super Hijabi Girl.

MISS

Award for the most imaginative.

To Melek and Tien.

ZAC

Is it soccer or Aussie Rules?

MELEK

Both. Our Hijabi Aussie Rules Girls is a new code. We are different in a good way.

Rattus Rattus sits on the Reading Chair.

MISS

Other schools have a Reading Dog. We have a Reading Rat. He stays as long as you read to him, Zac. Thirty minutes every day.

TIEN

Any language?

MISS

nods

AND after Zac has finished, any student can read to Rattus Rattus. Otherwise, he goes home.

TIEN

Words tell you stuff about a person, but pictures show you. Can I draw instead?

MISS

Yes Tien. I have a special job for you. Here's 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' story Zac. Read that to Rattus Rattus.

MELEK

wears hijab in footy colours.

Before the Book Parade, my Mum designed a range of hijabs for soccer fans. It also works for Aussie Rules players. So she made me one in footy colours to wear to the match.

ZAC

Cool! Tien, could you draw Rattus Rattus wearing my team's colours?

TIEN

After I've drawn the Corridor of Characters in the Annexe. Miss said I could do that instead of the A to Z homework.

MELEK

And then we can make the Hijabi Girl book?

TIEN

nods

You have to write the story first.

MELEK

The Hijabi Aussie Rules Girls' team. It's a book about the team that is going to play. Real stuff.

NARRATOR

BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY.

All bow

Script based on Hazel Edwards' & Ozge Alkan's junior chapter book, illustrated by Serena Geddes. Published by BookPOD 2016

ISBN 978-0-9943583-5-6
eISBN 978-0-9943583-6-3

Resources, activities, reviews & sample chapter
http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/hijabi_girl.html

Background

What's 'Hijabi Girl' about?

Friendship & diversity as a strength.

Melek is 8-ish, feisty, keen on football AND reading. She wants to start her own Aussie Rules girls' football team. Meanwhile there's friendly rivalry with soccer keen Zac and his Reading Rat Rattus Rattus who escapes in the classroom.

New student Tien draws 'everything', even the Book Parade. Melek can't find a book character in a hijab, so she writes her own book, with a bit of help from artist Tien. Lily is the dress-ups queen.

Miss is a 'doing' kind of teacher, strict about stuff, but fun. Their classroom has Fab Science projects, a Rainbow Reading Chair and a Corridor of Cartoons.

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

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

Research

Find out about HALAL and fill in apt words for the Halal Chorus.

HALAL CHOUS dance on.

H is for...

A is for

L is for

A is for

L is for.

HALAL!