

Open Day at the Mosque

illustrations by
Adele Jackson



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Every year, our mosque has an open day.
We get lots of visitors – people come
from all around. Everyone is welcome.





Some of our visitors are neighbours. They live right on our street. Others are friends from school. But some are people we've never met before. They all come to learn about our mosque and being Muslim.

On the morning of the open day, I go to the mosque early with my dad. First, I help Mohammed put the big sign on the fence. We use the same one every year.





Because the mosque has lots of rooms, we put signs inside too. People can visit the library and the kitchen and the classrooms. We also have two prayer rooms: one for the men and one for the women.



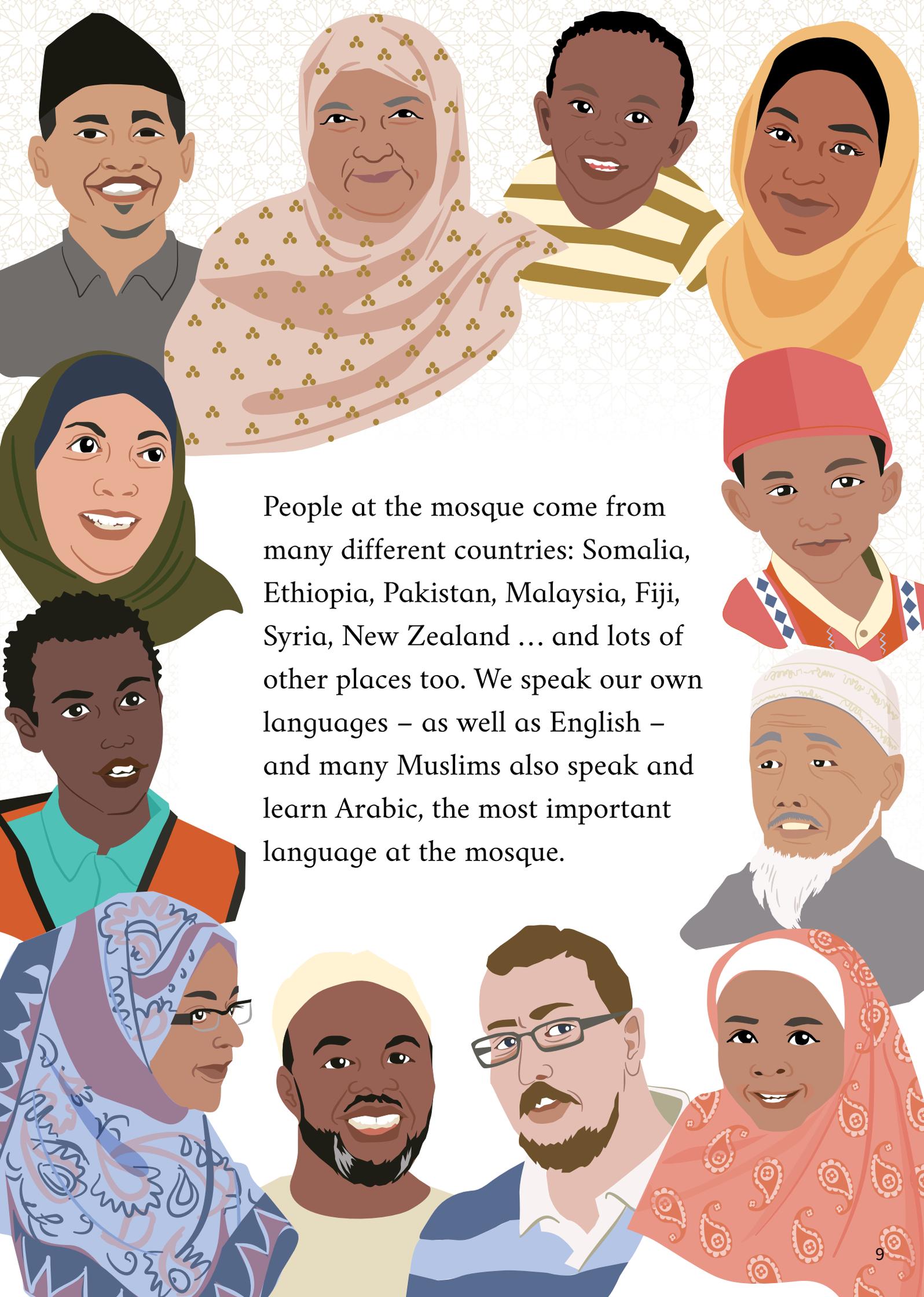
Most of our visitors have never been to a mosque. They're always curious. "Why do you wear a hijab?" they ask. "Do you get hungry during Ramadan?" "What's an imam?"



Our mosque has one imam. He leads our prayers. He comes to every open day so he can talk to the visitors and answer their questions.



Our holy book is called the Qur'an. We have lots of copies of it in the library. I show visitors the Qur'an in Arabic and in English and in Māori. They're often surprised because that's just the start. We also have the Qur'an in Japanese, Chinese, Malay, and many other languages.



People at the mosque come from many different countries: Somalia, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Fiji, Syria, New Zealand ... and lots of other places too. We speak our own languages – as well as English – and many Muslims also speak and learn Arabic, the most important language at the mosque.



On open day, visitors can have their names written in Arabic. Sometimes, there's even a queue!



The queues get even longer in the basement, where we serve the food. We have lots of good cooks at the mosque. People can eat roti and samosas or thick noodles with vegetables. They can try curries and sushi and injera. We have a sausage sizzle too.



My sister Aamina likes to have a bake stall. This year, she's made brownies and cupcakes with lots of icing. When I finish watching the little kids on the bouncy castle, I help Aamina put out more food.



Open day is my favourite day of the year.
There are so many fun things to do: try on
a hijab or sari ...



Coming to the mosque helps people understand who we are. They learn about our many different cultures, and they learn about being Muslim.



We do some things differently,
but mostly, people find out we're
a lot like them.

