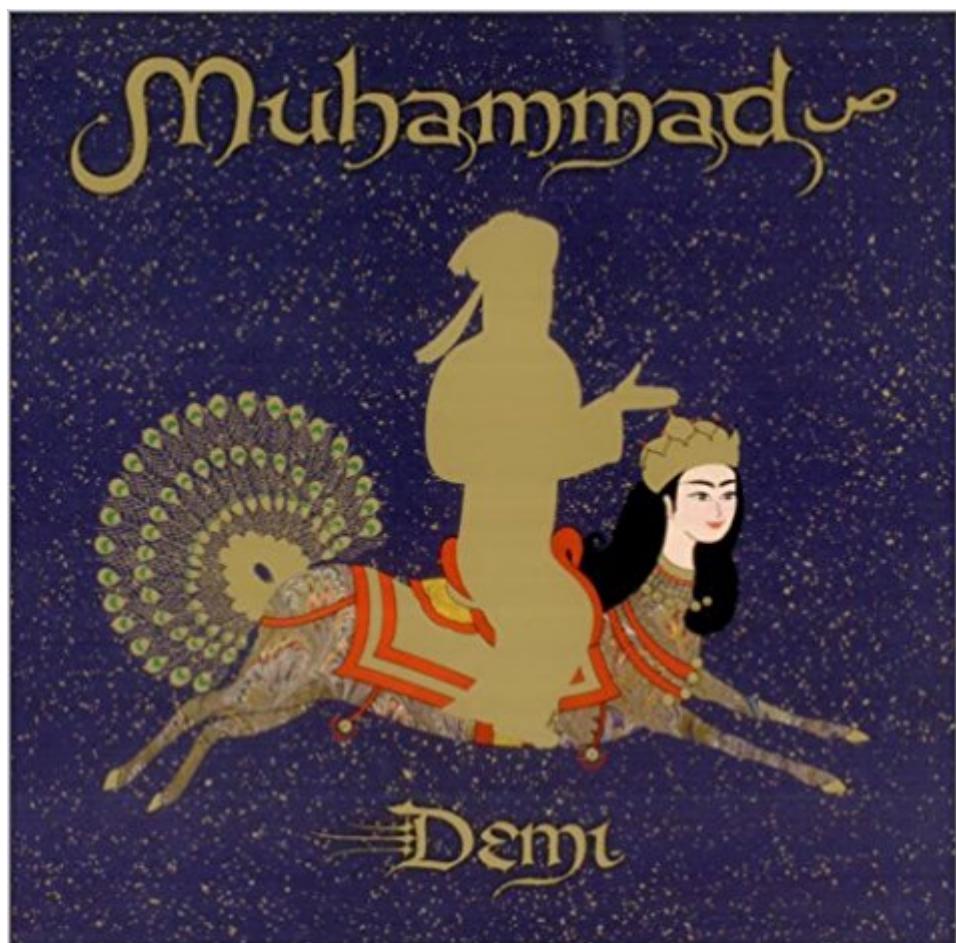


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Muhammad



Synopsis

Muhammad is the messenger of Islam. Born in Mecca in the year 570, Muhammad grew into a sensitive and thoughtful man who believed deeply in the worship of one true god. In his fortieth year, Muhammad experienced a revelation from the angel Gabriel that he, Muhammad, was the messenger of God. Over the next twenty-three years, he received many such revelations, all of which were written down by scribes at the time of revelation to become the Koran, the sacred scripture of Islam, a religion that is practiced by nearly one-quarter of the world's population and holds as its most sacred tenet that there is no god but God. Through a clear text and stunning illustrations based upon those of traditional Islamic expression, the award-winning artist Demi here introduces the remarkable life of the Prophet Muhammad for young readers.

Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Grade 3 Up-Demi's somewhat reverent picture-book introduction to Muhammad is similar in format to her Buddha (Holt, 1995). Born into a powerful and influential Meccan tribe in the year A.D. 570, Muhammad was nursed for five years by a desert woman who recognized his "inner beauty and greatness." Between the ages of 40 and 63, he had many visions that revealed to him the words that became the Koran and the Five Pillars of Islam. Although he quickly gained many followers, his attempts to convert the idol-worshipping Meccans to monotheism annoyed the Quraysh tribal leaders, forcing the Muslims into military confrontations. Ultimately, he was able to unite the feuding Arab tribes into the Ummah brotherhood. Demi states that he granted religious tolerance to

Christians and Jews, but forced them to pay a "tribute" to the Islamic government. Also, problematic generalized statements, such as "-Muhammad taught God's words that said that all men and women, black and white, rich and poor, must be treated with dignity and respect," are presented as fact. No mention is made of the disparaging references in the Koran to Jews and Christians, who are termed "disbelievers," or that Muslims are admonished not to take them as friends. Demi's carefully designed paint-and-ink illustrations, with their tiny detailed people in brightly colored costumes and Islamic architecture and symbols, are done in the style of the Persian miniature. Because Islamic tradition forbids the creation of graven images, Muhammad is depicted as a golden silhouette; his printed name is followed in the text by the Arabic symbol for benediction. Quotes from the Koran appear throughout, and a one-page bibliography includes text and art references. Elsa Marston's *Muhammad of Mecca: Prophet of Islam* (Watts, 2001) is a more thorough, unbiased introduction to Muhammad and Islam. Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH
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Gr. 4-7, younger for reading aloud. More than any other children's book available, this biography of the prophet Muhammad reflects the literary and artistic traditions of the Islamic world. Like most Arab texts, it begins with the words, "In the name of God, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate," and an Arabic honorific always follows Muhammad's name. The readily understandable narrative tells the stories of Muhammad's life as Muslim children hear them, beginning with his birth in Mecca and ending with the declaration that although Muhammad has died, God never will. In keeping with Islamic artistic tradition, the paintings do not portray the face or body of the Prophet; instead they show his silhouette in gold leaf. Using the ancient Persian miniature style, Demi ignores scale and paints primarily in two dimensions (so that, for instance, worshippers do not appear to be kneeling on a rug so much as superimposed on it). With dramatic scenes extending past the borders of the intricately patterned frames, the art will be a continual source of interest for young people. Demi weaves together selections from the Qur'an and an overview of Islam in this excellent retelling of the Prophet's life that combines beauty and scholarship. John Green
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OK

This is a nice account of the life of the Prophet, but the story telling drags a bit. As always Demi's artwork is beautiful. Were I to grade the story telling alone, I would probably give it 3.5 stars. Then I

would give the presentation (artwork, printing, etc. 5 stars). The story is definitely not for children any younger than seven. My six year old is an advanced and avid reader, but she becomes bored with this story rather quickly. This is telling given that she can sit down with something like "Charlotte's Webb" for more than an hour. Nonetheless, for the time being this is the best biography of the Prophet in English for young readers. Hopefully there will be something to surpass this for both a younger audience (4 to 8) and an young adult audience. It is amazing that there are not many quality children's books about the person considered by some to have been the most influential individual in history.

Muhammad By Rumi captures the true experience of what learning about Prophet Muhammad should be about. I urge Muslim parents to use this book to teach your children about The Prophet PBUH.

I really like this book, it gives just enough information to help out someone who may be just learning about Islam and the Prophet. The pictures are nice as well.

This is a lovely book. My son likes me to read it to him at night before bedtime. I'm very pleased with this purchase.

demi's books are always so beautiful!

I have been a fan of author-illustrator Demi's works for a while, and found myself captivated by her recent book on the life of St. Joan of Arc. Then I came across this book on the Prophet Muhammad, and was captivated by the cover art, so I promptly checked it out of the library. This book is gorgeously illustrated and what makes it even more amazing is the illustrator's sensitivity to the Muslims in not depicting the Prophet Muhammad's image which is forbidden in Islam (if I'm not mistaken, Islam prohibits representing human images), so Demi opts to depict the Prophet Muhammad as a gold-colored image. The artistic style adopted here is of the Persian miniature style, and it is beautiful indeed. I felt like I was reading an Islamic manuscript. The story follows Prophet Muhammad's life since birth, to his upbringing, and into adulthood. It covers the main events in his life such as his receiving the revelation from Allah (God) through the angel Gabriel; how the words of God were put down by Muhammad through the aid of scribes, an endeavor that took 23 years; the Ascension; and, many more up till his death. There are also selected verses from

the Quran in the book. This is a well-written and beautifully-illustrated book on the life of Prophet Muhammad and is most suited to children ages 8 and up.

It is wonderful to read a book about Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) that not only educates us about his life but does so with such beauty, grace and deep respect for the religion he brought to the world. I love that Demi is leading by example both with her content and the beauty of her illustrations to depict Islam in such a thoughtful and meaningful way. She deserves a medal for this book not just from the book world but also from the Muslim world. Her choice of depicting him in a golden silhouette and using the Arabic letter "saad" after his name which is short for an abbreviation that Muslims use when they speak/write of him and similarly all the Abrahamic prophets and means "May God Honor him and grant him peace" or "peace be upon him" is not only appropriate but brilliant. The book has both substance and knowledge and the illustrations are out of this world. She has outdone herself. If you are going to read a biography on the Prophet, before you read the adult versions, read this. This book is also a great education tool in teaching both Muslims and non-Muslims about the leader of the second largest and fastest growing religion in the world. It's one of the brightest gems in our library. We applaud you, Demi! You have inspired us to read your other biographies/stories and create an interfaith/intercultural library for our children so that they can follow in the footsteps of our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and respect all religions and all people. Thank you for this gift.

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