

# My Beautiful Blue Hijab

(Autobiography)

## Making the Reading- Writing Connection

1. Read the autobiography from beginning to end.
2. Then, read the autobiography again. Pay attention to the highlighted words.
3. The highlighted words focus on what the author considered when writing different parts of the autobiography.
4. There are notes in the left margin to help you think about making your words work when you write an autobiography.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY



## Making your words work



Written in the first person.

Setting includes background information: who, where, what and when.

Important facts are included.

The events are told in the order in which they happened.

Tells about something that really happened.

### My Beautiful BLUE HIJAB

Let me introduce myself. I am Farhana, a twelve-year-old girl who goes to school in Montreal.

Although I was born in Canada, my parents were born in Bangladesh and moved to Canada before I was born. We still have relatives in Bangladesh and I have been to visit the place where my mother and father came from.

In my family there are four children. My brother is the oldest child and I am the middle girl. It is not always easy to be the one in the middle but sometimes things work out okay.

Last year my mother brought home a beautiful blue hijab for my older sister. A hijab is a scarf that covers your head, neck and throat. If you are a girl or a woman who is wearing a hijab, people know that you are a Muslim. I did not care that my mother had brought the hijab for my sister and not for me because I did not want to wear a hijab to school. At that time, I did

## Making your words work



Words describe how the author feels.

Written in the past tense.

The author decides what information to include and what to leave out.

not like wearing a hijab because I was afraid that people would make fun of me. Sometimes people at school or outside make fun of you if you put on things that are different. And sometimes they talk about you if you are from a different religion. I did not want this to happen to me.

My older sister did not wear the beautiful blue hijab that my mother had brought home for her. I thought a lot about this. One day I talked to my father about how I was feeling. He told me that he understood and that he also felt bad when people looked at him differently from the way they looked at other people. But he said that no matter how difficult, it was important for people to be proud of who they are. He told me that if someone says anything to me when I am wearing the hijab then I should say, "I was born in Canada. I am just like you."

So I thought about what my father had told me. Finally, I said to myself,

## Making your words work



The author tells how this event affected her.

Words are used to describe how the author is feeling.

A final thought to show how the event affected the writer.

"I can be both Muslim and Canadian." I started to wear my own blue hijab to school. I was nervous the first time I wore the hijab to school. What were my friends going to say? My friends were very interested in my new hijab and they asked me a lot of questions, but no one made fun of me.

That week, when I wore the blue hijab each day, it made me feel good. My mother told me I was beautiful and that is just how I felt. Beautiful on the outside and on the inside. It felt like my life was changing. Even the world looked more beautiful. I think maybe it was not the world that had changed. It was me. Anyone who sees me will know that I am a Canadian who is also proud to be a Muslim girl. I am proud of who I am.