

Teachers' Edition

Remembering Baba

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Pre-Reading

Who or what do you think Shahanaz may be trying to remember?

Vocabulary

bus- (verb) to clean a table at a restaurant

diner - (noun) a small, usually cheap restaurant

Papi - (noun) Spanish word for daddy

Kwanzaa - (noun) harvest festival celebrated by some African American communities

stoop - (noun) a small raised area in front of a house, a porch

clutch - (verb) to hold something tightly

Eid - (noun) a festival celebrated by people who follow Islam

Background

The main character in the story, Shahanaz, is from Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a country located between India and Myanmar (Burma). Eighty-three percent of Bangladeshis, or people from Bangladesh are Muslims. They follow a religion where Allah is their central God and they worship Him according to their Holy Book, the Koran. One of their largest celebrations is Eid ul-Fitr which literally means “festivities of breaking the fast.” Eid, as the holiday is called for short, is a three-day celebration that ends the month of Ramadan when Muslims fast by not eating or drinking between sun up and sun down. (They can only eat and drink at night.)

Class Discussion Question

Why might Shahanaz and her mother live in the United States even though Shahanaz’s father lives in Bangladesh?

Answers to Comprehension Questions

- 1) c (Understanding Emotions)
- 2) d (Compare and Contrast)
- 3) a (Context Clues)
- 4) c (Compare and Contrast)
- 5) answers will vary (Inference)

Answers to Vocabulary Questions

- 1) b
- 2) a
- 3) c
- 4) c
- 5) a

Special Project

Divide students into groups and have them research and report on various aspects of Bangladesh: geography, history, culture, and politics.