



Muhammad Najem: War Reporter

by Muhammad Najem & Nora Neus



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Muhammad Najem was only eight years old when the war in Syria began. He was thirteen when his beloved Baba, his father, was killed in a bombing while praying. By fifteen, Muhammad didn't want to hide anymore—he wanted to act. He was determined to reveal what families like his were enduring in Syria: bombings by their own government and days hiding in dark underground shelters. Armed with the camera on his phone and the support of his family, he started reporting on the war using social media. He interviewed other kids like him to show what they hope for and dream about. More than anything, he did it to show that Syrian kids like his toddler brother and infant sister, are just like kids in any other country. Despite unimaginable loss, Muhammad was always determined to document the humanity of the Syrian people. Eventually, the world took notice. This tenderly illustrated graphic memoir is told by Muhammad himself along with CNN producer Nora Neus, who helped break Muhammad's story and bring his family's plight to an international audience.

Who Wrote It?

Muhammad Najem is from the eastern city of Ghouta in Syria. He began filming and reporting on the war in Syria at the age of 15 to share with the world the horrors of bombings, death, and destruction occurring daily in his homeland. He lived through eight years of war—documenting and sharing the stories and realities of the Syrian people online. In 2019, Muhammad moved to Turkey with his family, where they are now safe. However, the war in Syria continues more than 11 years later, and people still lose their lives every day. He remains committed to reporting on Syria to keep the world informed of the truth. In addition to this book, Muhammad was featured in Angelina Jolie's book Know Your Rights and Claim Them, a guide

empowering young people worldwide to advocate for themselves and others. Currently, Muhammad is focused on improving his English and continuing his education.



AR Reading Level: 3.1

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆

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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.