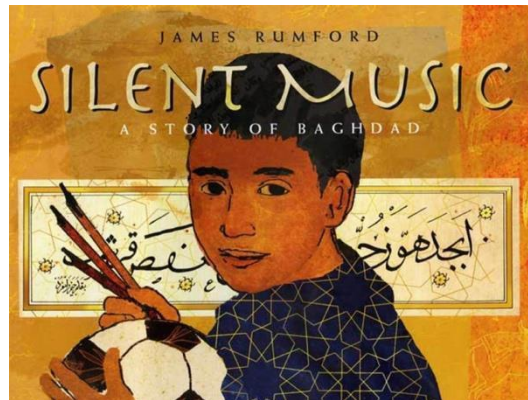


Invitations created by: Emily Crohn

Silent Music

A Story of Baghdad

By: James Rumford



Book Summary

This story welcomes readers to the life of Ali, a young boy from Baghdad, Iraq. Throughout this short story, you are taken on a journey of swoops and turns to find out what makes Ali truly happy, calligraphy. Although he is much like many other young children because of his love for soccer, dance, and music, it is evident to see that Ali has a much more mature, softer, and deeper side to him. As stressful as it can be to live in a war torn area in the Middle East, Ali finds peace and tranquility in his writing. Silent Music not only allows audience members to connect to the main character, it also provides aesthetic quality with it's beautiful charcoal illustrations that were inspired by photographers and American service personnel in Iraq. Between the beauty of the illustrations and the fantastic writing from James Rumford, this story is one for all ages!

Learning Invitations

- Calligraphy
- Arabic Writing
- Bombing of Baghdad 2003
- Writing and Art Therapy
- Baghdad on The Map!

Social Studies Themes

- **Geography**
- **US and World History**
- **Global Connections**
- **Connections to current events**

Indiana Academic State Standards

Writing and Language Arts

6.W.3.3. Write Narrative Compositions in a variety of forms that engage and orient the reader.

6.W.6.2. Demonstrate command of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

6.RL 2.1. Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

6 RL 2.3. Explain how a plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the narrative advances and moves towards a resolution.

6. RL. 3.1. Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a work of literature and contributes to the development of theme, characterization, setting, and plot

Calligraphy

“But most of all, I love calligraphy- writing the letters of my language and making them go from right to left across the page.” – Ali

Materials:

- Student iPad
- Social Studies Notebook with writing utensil
- Calligraphy basket filled with books, pens, paper, markers, etc.

Directions:

Using your social studies notebooks, please write the invitation title as the heading, and complete the invitation directly below it.

- 1.) Set the timer on your iPad for five minutes. This is how much time you and your team have to investigate everything in the calligraphy basket. Flip through the books, look at the pens, search through the different style of fonts, and have a conversation about these items.
- 2.) When the timer is up, switch the time to three minutes, during this entire time, write down what you thought about what was in the basket! Do you think it is interesting? Cool? Do you want to know more about it? Do you know anyone who writes in calligraphy?

Emily Crohn, Grade 6, Grandview Elementary School

Have you seen this style of writing anywhere?

3.) When the timer goes off, visit this YouTube site:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zICWxlQtcCo>

Skip to 2:07 in the video. She will begin to explain how to use normal markers to write basic calligraphy. Watch the video while beginning to practice letters of the alphabet! Slowly work up to writing your name! When you begin to feel comfortable with the swoops and pulls, grab a piece of cardstock and write your first and last name as nice and neat as you can!

4.) Next, set your timer for 8 minutes and during this time, search the internet for anything fun and interesting you find about calligraphy! Search ideas:

- Who uses calligraphy?
- Why is it used?
- What is the history of calligraphy?
- Are there different types/styles of calligraphy?

While you are finding information, take notes over what you find!

5.) When you are finished, in your notebook, write a two paragraph personal narrative about your thoughts on this style of writing. Think about..

- The importance/significance of calligraphy overall.
- Why you think our main character enjoyed calligraphy.
- After you have written in calligraphy, can you understand why Ali enjoyed it so much?
- Do you enjoy this style of writing? What do you like about it?
- Would you ever use this style of writing?

Bombing of Baghdad 2003

“One frightening night in the year 2003, as bombs and missiles fell on my city, and death and destruction once again filled the streets, I like Yakut, wrote.” –Ali

Materials:

- Student iPad
- Social Studies Notebook with writing utensil
- Posters with pictures from the war on terrorism, the night of the bombings, newspaper clippings, etc.

Directions:

Using your social studies notebooks, please write the invitation title as the heading, and complete the invitation directly below it.

- 1.) Re-read the quote below the title a couple of times in your head. Shut your eyes and imagine what it must have been like to hear these sounds and feel these feelings. Really try to put yourself in Ali's position. Remember this feeling.
- 2.) After you have reflected on the quote, please go to this YouTube link to listen and view it very carefully in it's entirety.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NktsxucDvNI>

After you watch it, answer these questions. Remember, restate the answer in your written response. Please make sure you use proper spelling, grammar, capitalization and punctuation as well!

- Why do you think this was called "Shock and Awe?" What drew you to this conclusion?
- Why was the US invading Iraq during this time? Quote evidence that supports your answer. You may find this evidence from any credible online resource.
- What sights and sounds did you see? How did this make you feel?
- How do you think you would have felt if you were Ali?
- What connection can you draw to this bombing and Ali writing calligraphy? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Arabic Writing

“Some words are easier to write than others. Their letters loop together and make beautiful shapes all by themselves—like the word Yasmin, my little sisters name. It just flows from my pen.” –Ali

Materials:

- Student iPad
- Social Studies Notebook with writing utensil
- Arabic writing books—an assortment from public library

Directions:

Using your social studies notebooks, please write the invitation title as the heading, and complete the invitation directly below it.

- 1.) Spend about 10-12 minutes, and look through all of the books and have a conversation about the style of writing you are seeing.

Here are some things to talk about with your group..

- How do Ali's feelings about Arabic writing contribute to the overall mood of the story?
- How does Arabic writing fit into the story? What point does the author make with it?
- What connections can you make to Arabic writing and

movement?

- What are the differences between the Arabic writing style and the American writing style?
- 2.) Use the books you have available and see if you can practice the letters enough to be able to write your name in Arabic! You can practice in your social studies notebook and then use a piece of cardstock and markers for the final try!

Writing and Art Therapy

“I wrote all night and the many nights of bombing that followed. I filled my room with pages of calligraphy. I filled my mind with peace.” –Ali

Materials:

- Student iPad and earbuds
- Student art box
- Social Studies Notebook with writing utensil
- Posters of artwork, charcoal drawings, doodles, music notes.
- An informational text brochure created by Mrs. Crohn about different types of writing, art, and physical therapy.
- Basket of paper

Directions:

Using your social studies notebooks, please write the invitation title as the heading, and complete the invitation directly below it.

- 1.) Spend time looking at the posters and reading the informational text to help deepen your feelings to Ali and his passion for Arabic and Calligraphy writing.
- 2.) Talk with a partner/group about how Ali may be been feeling throughout the novel.
- 3.) Converse about how Ali changed throughout the novel as

the book was drawing towards it's conclusion.

- 4.) What reasons do you think Ali had for being so passionate about writing?
- 5.) What is the purpose of writing in Ali's life?
- 6.) After you have discussed these topics, please get on your iPad and go to YouTube.
- 7.) Stop and think about a song that is "parent rattling" music, Ali's favorite kind!
- 8.) Get a piece of paper from the basket and any type of writing utensil that you want to use from your artbox! You can use as many as you want!
- 9.) Put that song on (as long as it's school appropriate), and doodle the entire time. Write the name of the song at the top of the paper, and then doodle about how that song makes you feel. You can doodle whatever your heart desires, so long as the music is making you feel it!
- 10.) When you are done with this, write a small personal narrative reflection on how you felt while you were doodling. Was it a stress reliever? How did it make you feel? Can you make a connection as to why Ali chose to write during times of stress?

Baghdad on The Map!

Materials:

- Student iPad, with Google Earth
- Social Studies Notebook with writing utensil
- Aerial maps of Baghdad, Globes, Maps, etc.

Directions:

Using your social studies notebooks, please write the invitation title as the heading, and complete the invitation directly below it.

- 1.) On your iPad, open up Google Earth.
- 2.) Fly to Baghdad, Iraq. When you arrive there, write down what the aerial view looks like. Make a chart or a table and track down what you see in terms of:
 - a. Landforms—mountain ranges?
 - b. Color of land
 - c. Roads
 - d. Bodies of water—what is the major body of water that runs through Baghdad?
 - e. Does it look like a lot of people live there? (Go look up Baghdad's actual population and compare it with what you originally thought!)
 - f. Find two famous landmarks and describe them. What are the landmarks? What do they stand for?

3.) Find the absolute location of Baghdad, Iraq.

- 4.) Take your peg man and walk along multiple streets, anywhere you want! What do you see? What do these areas look like?
- 5.) As you pan out in the aerial view, write down 5 symbols you see pop up and what they stand for. Do these symbols change once you are in another country?
- 6.) What other famous cities are near Baghdad that were places of battle during the war on Terrorism? Describe the significance of these cities.

When you are finished, write a personal reflection on what you think about Baghdad. Is this someplace you would want to live? What do you think it would be like to live there every day? Do you know anyone who is from the Middle East? Make any connections you can!