

## **The Grinch Who Stole Ramadan**

It was a rainy day; raindrops fell on the floor of the vast Halifax ground. Haya stretched her arms out and yawned, realising that it was the first day of Ramadan. What felt like a minute ago she was eating sprinkled pancakes with a milkshake. It was her first year fasting! Haya quickly dressed and ran down the stairs. She headed down the hall to the kitchen. Nobody was awake. “Ugh I’m so hungry, I don't want to fast, it's not fair that I must fast HMPHHHH!”

She tossed her long brown hair back and put on a haughty look. After 7 minutes Haya’s mom came down. “Assalamualaikum Haya, how is your fast?”

“Salam hmph I am hungry HMPHHHH!” “How about we go to the attic?” said her mom. Haya followed her mom to the attic. They dusted and scrubbed until Haya’s father came down. Haya tried her best all day to be as grumpy as she could. She was acting exactly like the Grinch, but no one seemed to be low in their spirits. After a few hours she got hungrier and hungrier. Her mom tried to distract her by giving her different types of activities. Finally, it was time to break her fast. “Honey you have done so good in your fasting that I made eclairs.”,said Haya’s mom. Thank you grumbled Haya. She broke her fast with dates and prayed then had pasta. The next day she woke up extra grumpy. Her Mom set down a bowl of porridge and a plate of eggs. Haya refused to eat her eggs. I hate fasting. It's not fair, said Haya. Eventually, Haya ate her food because it was almost dawn. When she woke up again, she felt like something was bothering her. It was her throat. Haya’s throat was hurting so much she couldn't swallow. Haya ran downstairs to tell her mom. “Dear, I think you should break your fast. You need medical care.” So, Haya broke her fast. She was delighted to miss fasting, she hated fasting! After 6 days of missing fasting Haya felt bad for spoiling the first day of Ramadan for her parents. She also felt bad for being happy that she missed fasting. It wasn't right, fasting was good for you. It cleansed your spiritual body and your outside body. Haya didn't want to rot like apples. Suddenly she felt like a grinch. The grinch who stole Ramadan. Especially for her parents. She ended up missing 18 days of fasting. But she felt thankful for being able to fast. The first day after missing so many fasts Haya felt hungry, but this time Haya was Merry and happy. She did not complain a single time the first day. This went on for many days.

On the day of Eid Haya put on her new sparkly dress. They had crepes and cream. After that they went to the mosque for Eid prayers. Then Haya’s dad took Haya and her mom to the swimming pool. When they got home Haya couldn't wait for next year. But even thirty years later Haya still thought of herself as the Grinch who stole Ramadan.

**The end**