QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

A magazine for children, by children, that provides them with a creative opportunity to learn about the world around them, and how to apply the teachings of Islām and Aḥmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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Cover by Mahnoor Waseem

2011 - Issue 3
Dear Reader,

As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

It is the beginning of 2012. We hope you have enjoyed the holiday break. How did you spend the last few days of 2011? Going to West Coast Jalsa in Chino, California? Did you go to Qadian, India to attend Jalsa there? Or maybe you stayed home to relax and get ready for 2012? Let us be sure to pray for a healthy and happy 2012 for the entire world. And always remember to pray for our beloved Khalifatul-Masīh!

We hope you enjoy this issue of Al Hilal—a really fun read about our top ten favorite... anything! Favorite foods, vacation spots, friends, world facts, etc. We chose the number ten because Al-Hilal magazine turned ten years old in 2011! There have been so many great articles, poems, drawings and puzzles over the last ten years and we hope to see many more over the next ten years. In Sha Allah we look forward to reading your thoughts and seeing your artwork in 2012!

Was-Salām,

Rabia Chaudhry

Al Hilal Editorial Staff
10 Ways to Become a Perfect Ahmadi Muslim
Tahira Tauyyab. Central VA. Age 13.

1. Always offer all of your Ṣalats (Prayers) on time no matter what.
2. Read The Holy Qur'an every single day.
3. Follow the 5 pillars of Islam.
4. Follow the 6 Articles of Faith.
5. Obey your parents and respect them.
6. Respect your elders and their property.
7. Be truthful in everything, do not lie.
8. Be generous and charitable, do not be selfish and miserly.
9. Be good natured and forgiving, do not be bitter and resentful.
10. Share and be content with what Allah has given you, do not be greedy.
    Always try to be like the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

10 Foods Mentioned in the Holy Quran
Tahira Tauyyab. Central VA. Age 13.

1. Figs
2. Olives
3. Bananas
4. Grapes
5. Pomegranates
6. Dates
7. Palm Trees
8. Cucumbers
9. Garlic
10. Onions

2011 - Issue 3
My Top 10 List of Games

Noor Chowdhry Age 7 (With the help of my mom, Seher Chowdhry) Central Virginia

1. Duck, Duck Goose: I love this game because it was a fun game that I played in Kindergarten.

2. Tug of War: This game was fun for me because I played it at the Sports Camp and I won 1st Place. Yay!

3. Tic Tac Toe: I love this game because I get to play it in school and I always win.

4. Monopoly: My dad got me this game, I love to play with money and buy properties. My brother has his own game, he didn’t like me playing his game so I got my own, but it always takes a long time to finish.

5. Badminton: My family and I go to play badminton all the time. I am getting really good at it because my mom is teaching me how to play. It is a lot of fun.

6. Bowling: I picked this because I go to play bowling a lot with my family. I love throwing the ball and getting points.

7. Treasure Hunt: I played this game when my friends and I had a big party play date at my house. My mom made the Treasure Hunt game and gave us the clues to find the treasure. It was a bag of gold coins. My brother was supposed to guard the treasure by pretending to be a monster.

8. Simon Says: We like to play this all the time when we are going in the car somewhere. It’s always so funny each time.

9. Fish Race: This is a game my mom made up for us. We cut fish shapes out of paper and race them across the floor. We use newspapers or magazines to fan them across the floor and see who can get to the finish line first. I love to play this all the time.

10. Jump Rope: I like to play jump rope as many times as I can. I played this at our Sports Camp and it was a lot of fun. I can make a lot of jumps with my jump rope.
Ten Things...  Fazeela Wadan . Central VA. Age 11.

The topic I have chosen for ten things, are my ten favorite countries and places I would like to visit. The first place, which I dream about going to, is my favorite: Rome, Italy. I chose Rome because I have heard from people that actually went there that it is a fascinating place from its sights to its strange looking food that turns out to be delicious. The second place I would like to visit would be Norway because some of my family members live there. Also, I went there when I was a year old so I do not remember anything. From the pictures and stories my family has shared with me, Norway looks like an awesome place to relax.

Paris is the third place I want to go to, mainly because of the Eiffel tower and the scenery. The fourth place that I would like to visit, and I already do, is Canada. I chose Canada as my fourth country to visit because of Niagara Falls, even if it scares me to death! Egypt is the fifth country I would enjoy visiting because of the pyramids and the sand dunes. The sixth place I would like to visit is London because then I could attend the Friday Sermon of the Khalifatul-Masih. Austria is the seventh country I would like to see. This is because my friend is from there and told me it is a magnificent place. Also another country a friend told me about is the Dominican Republic which is number eight. She said that it has the most beautiful beaches she has ever seen!

Greece is the ninth country I would love to visit because we learn so much about Greece in school that you can hand me a test at any moment and I guarantee I will probably get an A+. The tenth and the last country I chose for this article is Tokyo! This is because there are so many shows on TV that involve Tokyo that I have the desire to go there. Now you know my ten favorite countries and places to visit!
The **TOP TEN Places I Want to Go**

Leeza Ahmed. Age 10. Central VA.

The top ten places I want to go to are:
1. Hawaii
2. Paris
3. Los Angeles
4. Japan
5. Texas
6. Florida
7. New York
8. Canada
9. Mexico
10. Pakistan

The reasons I want to visit these places are that they are all exotic and have astounding sights to see like the Eiffel Tower in Paris and Disney World in Florida. The whole point is that we can go to these places is because of Allah! He made this world and gave us ideas to create beautiful places so that we can obey Him and enjoy the beauty of this world. That is why when we go somewhere, we should think about Allah and how He created all these breathtaking places.

**TOP TEN PLACES TO VISIT**

Areej Khan. Central VA. Age 12

1. Great Barrier Reef, Australia
2. Cape Town, South Africa
3. The Iguazu Waterfalls, Argentina-Brazil Border
4. Edinburgh Castle, Scotland
5. London, England
6. Ansel Adams Wilderness, Sierra Nevada, California, USA
7. Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia
8. Reed Flute Cave, Guilin, Guangxi, China
9. Navagio Beach, Zakynthos, Greece
10. Seychelles Islands

Al-Hilāl
My Top 10 Favorite Books
Linta Rashid, Central VA. Age 10

1. Life as We Knew It
2. The Lightning Thief
3. The Sea of Monsters
4. Battle of the Labyrinth
5. The Last Olympian
6. The Lost Hero
7. The Red Pyramid
8. The Girl Who Could Fly
9. Dr. Seuss Books
10. The Cat in the Hat

My favorite genre of books is fiction. I will read any type of fiction (realistic, historic, etc.). All of the books above are at least one type of fiction. That is why I like all the books I wrote above. The reason I put Dr. Seuss books down and put the book The Cat in The Hat down after that is because The Cat in The Hat was my favorite book when I was little and I still like to read it whenever I get the chance. My second favorite book by Dr. Seuss is Horton Hears A Who. I love to read books and if I had the choice, I would read books all day.

10 Ways to Make Your Teacher Happy
Laalbah Tayyeb, Central VA. Age 7

1. Follow all directions quietly.
2. Treat others the way you wanted to be treated.
3. Play fairly and share.
4. Turn all of your homework in on time.
5. Do not talk when your teacher is talking.
6. Study for all quizzes and tests.
8. Be Prepared. Have all of your supplies.
9. Raise your hand in class.
10. Bring your teacher an apple!

2011 - Issue 3
Wordsearch Puzzle

By Mahrukh Amir, Age 13, Las Vegas, NV Jama’at

QURAN
AHMADI
ISLAM
(HADRAT) MOHAMMAD
PEACE
LOVE

MUSLIM
RAMADAN
EID
SACRIFICE
PURDAH
Top Ten Cool Facts

Duaa Ahmad – Age 9
Oshkosh, WI
Parents Saad Ahmad and Amatul Nudrat

1. Did you know that a Nobel Prize is a worldwide prize? Dr. Abdus Salam was the first Pakistani scientist to win this prize. He was an Ahmadi Muslim.

2. Did you know that Amelia Earhart was the first woman pilot to fly across the Atlantic Ocean all by herself?

3. Did you know that the universe is expanding?

4. Did you know that a mummy is a dead body that is preserved using chemicals? Egyptian mummies are very famous because they are very old.

5. Did you know that some tigers can eat up to 110 pounds of meat at one time?

6. Did you know that a “black hole” is created when a very big star dies? It then sucks up other stars and planets that are nearby. Nothing—not even light—can escape from a black hole.

7. Did you know that our sun is a star? It is also the center of our solar system.

8. Did you know that “Pluto” used to be the smallest “planet”? But now scientists think that it is a “dwarf planet”.

9. Did you know that a Vampire Bat is a bat that drinks blood? It uses its teeth to cut into an animal’s skin and then laps the blood. It has some special chemicals that keep the blood from clotting.

10. Did you know that a “sponge” eats with the holes in its body? Clean water comes out of its mouth when it drinks it.
I like going to visit places in America. I have ten favorite places I like to go to.

These places are special to me because they are landmarks of America.

1. Yellowstone National Park. I like it because of its geysers and bubbling hot springs. 60% of the world’s geysers are in Yellowstone National Park! My favorite one is Old Faithful. Also, it has a lot of hot springs and mud pots.

2. The White House. I have never been there, but I like it because it is the President’s house.

3. Statue of Liberty. I like it because of its steps and how big it is. It was a gift to America from France. After 9/11, it was closed and reopened in 2009.

4. The Washington Monument. I like it because it reminds me of George Washington, the first president, and one of the founding fathers of America. It is made of marble, granite, and bluestone gneiss. It is the world’s tallest stone structure. Its height is 555 ft. and 1/8 in.

5. Mount Rushmore. It is special to me because of how beautifully it was carved and how much skill it took. The
faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln are carved onto Mount Rushmore.

6. Death Valley National Park. I like it because of its hot weather and the dried lake. Death Valley has 825,000 visitors annually. The park covers 5,270 square miles and 95% of the park is wilderness.

7. Lake Erie. It is special because of its beautiful beaches and lighthouses. It is the 4th largest lake in the Great Lakes region and it is 571 ft. above sea level. It is the shallowest lake in the Great Lakes.

8. Las Vegas, Nevada. I like it because it has good hotels and it is a big city. Also, it is the most populous city in Nevada. Las Vegas was established in 1905 and became an official state in 1911.

9. Pittsburgh, PA. Do you know that, according to a survey, it is the most livable city in the US! It is a beautiful city, with one of the oldest incline railways, and lots of interesting museums.

10. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. I like it because of its beautiful Sequoia trees and giant Kings Canyon. It is the second oldest national park in America. It contains Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in America excluding Alaska.
Top Ten Reasons Why I Do not Have My Homework

Sinaan Abdurrehman Younus
Age 10
Baltimore Jama‘at

My dog did it for me, but it was in his language.

I did not do my homework because I spent so much time thinking of an excuse for not doing my homework.

I put it in a safe but I lost the combination.

Some aliens from outer space borrowed it so they could study how the human brain worked.

I mistook my homework for a letter I sent to a far distant relative who lives on Mars... I have the letter to prove it.

I did not do it because I did not want to add to my teacher’s already heavy workload.

I lost my pencil, and we only go pencil shopping on weekends.

I have a solar-powered calculator, and it was a cloudy day.

I did my homework in my head; I did not know I was supposed to write it down. Then I forgot. Next time should I show my work?

I lost it fighting this kid who said that you were not the best teacher in the school.
My Ten Favorite Things
To Do When I Get Bored

Azra Javeed, Age 11, Oshkosh Jama‘at.

1. Creating snacks then eating them! It’s yummy!
2. Watching T.V. because some shows make me laugh.
3. Playing with my pet rabbit because he does the cutest things.
4. I love to read; books take me away to different places.
5. Cleaning my room; it passes time and gets work done, too.
6. I enjoy singing Nazms because it’s fun.
7. Trying new looks lets me express my artistic side.
8. Practice my violin so I can improve how I play.
9. Spending time with family and friends because I love them.
10. Taking a nap to relax.
My name is Misbah. I would like to tell you about my ten favorite sports.

**Boxing** is my first favorite sport. I do it every evening. You have to keep your elbows up but tuck them in.

**Running** is my second favorite sport. It gives you energy and if you have asthma, you can get rid of it for good.

**Baseball** is also one of my favorite sports because you have to run a lot. You just hit the ball and you run and go, go, go!

**Tennis** is my fourth favorite sport. You sometimes feel like your arm is going to fall off but you need to keep trying.

**Bowling** gives you strength to throw the ball forward towards the pins.

**Golf** is also one of my favorite sports. It requires a lot of walking when you hit the ball and it does not always go in the hole.

**Ice skating** is something fun to do in the winter and I like it because I can make my own skating moves.

**Roller skating** is kind of the same as ice skating and I am getting good at it day by day.
Skiing is most fun when you are on a hill and you are sliding down that hill when the snow is fresh. Soccer is my tenth favorite sport. Soccer is when you get to play with your friends just like baseball. You run a whole lot and when our team scores, the people scream “Goal!”

Top Ten Favorite Pokemon Characters

Aanosh Qureshi
Austin, Texas

Mew is #1 because it is very cute.
MewTwo is #2 because it has very powerful powers.
Espeon is #3 because it has very interesting facts.
Umbreon is #4 because I like its colors.
Eevee is #5 because it is very cute.
Flareon is #6 because it is cute too.
Glaceon is #7 because of how much it looks like ice to me.
Vaporeon is #8 because of the fact that it turns invisible in water.
Leafeon is #9 because it can smell fresh air when nobody else can.
Jolteon is #10 because it has very sharp spikes.
Have you ever wondered what your favorite books are? I think it is a really hard question because there are so many books to choose from. Anyway, here are my top ten:

One of my most favorite book is the *Dork Diaries*, which is about a girl who does not fit in at school and how she suffers because she has no friends and let me just tell you… *it is a happy ending*.

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*— I think you all have heard about this book, or should I say, books. It is a funny and interesting relationship between brothers.

*Double Fudge* is another series book, which is more like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* but in this book the family is a bit odd. All the children in the family are named after candy. The younger brother is Fudge and younger sister is Tootsie. It is a really funny book.

*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* is from the series of Fudge-Mania, Super Fudge, and Double Fudge. I suggest everyone to read this one because it has a story of a boy and his younger siblings and how they do not always get along—very true for most of us—but in the end they are friends forever. Now *Wringer, Winger* is a book about a boy who wants to be like this group of “cool” boys. This book is more of what happens in real life when people want to be like someone because they think they are really cool when actually they should just be themselves.
Fire Girl is a really unusual story. It is about a girl. A new classmate moves into town and she is not like the others. No one wants to sit with her or anything and one day she is absent and so he brings her homework to her house and they become friends but everyone thinks that she is weird and later people understand that she is no different from others.

There is one book called The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane and I think this a really classic book. It is about a girl who had a bunny doll and she took it everywhere and one day she was going somewhere with her dad and she lost the doll. The doll then goes through many adventures and eventually is returned to the owner.

Smile is not a book but it is a comic novel. It is about a girl who has an accident and she has to go through all these things to make her teeth look good but its no use because she has to get braces. It is a really funny book and everyone should read it.

I can talk about this forever but I cannot. I think all these book are really nice, especially Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. I read that book when I was in fourth grade. Some of these are a little freaky but they are good so try to read them and KEEP READING!!!
1. “I love you when you bow in your mosque, kneel in your temple, pray in your church. For you and I are sons of one religion, and it is the spirit.” - Khalil Gibran
2. “All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.” - Walt Disney
3. “A bird doesn’t sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.” - Lou Holtz
4. “A good painting to me has always been like a friend. It keeps me good company, comforts and inspires.” - Hedy Lamarr
5. “I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see.” - John Burroughs
6. “But friendship is the breathing rose, with sweets in every fold.” - Oliver Wendell Holmes
7. “Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.” - C.S. Lewis
8. “Friends are born, not made.” - Henry B. Adams
9. “An old friend can be a garden of true delight.” - Nick Beilenson
10. “A mistake is simply another way of doing things.” - Katharine Graham
Ahmadiyyat is reaching the corners of the earth
   It’s glowing more and more
   Through the dark clouds
   Reaching its future and beyond itself
   Reaching the true religion
Ahmadiyyat is the rose from all the flowers that bloom
Ahmadiyyat is the sun shining brightly
Ahmadiyyat is the mosque doors opening
Ahmadiyyat makes your life reach a pinnacle
Ahmadiyyat is the light that will guide you to the right path
Ahmadiyyat is the right guide for the future and for your children
Ahmadiyyat is the Ka’ba that holds the heart of all the Muslims in the world
Ahmadiyyat is the voices of Qur’an that tells the truth
Ahmadiyyat is the religion that holds us all with the arrow of truth
Ahmadiyyat welcomes all with the faith and the belief of the true Islam
Also the one with the noble heart, the heart that will pray to Allah and only Allah
Ahmadiyyat is our future and past!
My Top 10 Book Series + Books:

Palvashe Rashid
Houston * Age 11

1) It's Raining Cupcakes

2) The Clone Codes

3) Harry Potter

4) The Mysterious Benedict Society

5) The Heroes of Olympus

6) Percy Jackson and the Olympians

7) The Kane Chronicles

8) The Maximum Ride Series

9) The Hunger Games

10) The Poison Apple Books
Top Ten Places I've Been To:

Menahil Rehman * Houston * Age 10

1) Las Vegas: it's too much fun!
2) Grand Canyon: the view is amazing!
3) Miami: the beach is awesome!
4) Lubbock: I went with a group from my school and we had lots of fun!
5) New York: lots of people
6) Canada: it is fun at Jalsa
7) College Station, TX: I get to see my cousin
8) Dallas: the drive there is fun!
9) Austin: there are lots of hills!
10) San Antonio: I have fun there.

My Top Ten Places I Want to Go and Eat

Usma Asif
Houston * Age 10

1) London
2) Germany/Frankfurt
3) Dallas, Texas
4) Austin
5) Target
6) Mall
7) Colorado
8) San Diego
9) Hordia
10) Corpus Christie
My Top Ten Flowers:
Maryam Rehman * Houston * Age 9

1) Nilofar: my mom’s name
2) White Lily: the color is beautiful
3) Roses: smell great!
4) Tulips: the shape is pretty
5) Sunflowers: always face sun
6) Daisy: name is pretty cool
7) Dandelions: the yellow color is awesome
8) Rāt Kī Rānī: smells great at night
9) Agneaus: smells cool
10) Violets: the prettiest color ever!

My Top Ten Random Things I Love:
Saima Rehman/ Houston Age 13

1) Scary movies: They are interesting!
2) Kit Kat Chocolate: It tastes really good.
3) Grand Canyon: It is beautiful
4) Volleyball: It is easy and fun
5) Forensic Science: I want to be a CSI Agent and it interests me.
6) Photography: I love taking pictures
7) The beach: It is fun and pretty
8) Winter: I love wearing coats and hats
9) Las Vegas: It is pretty and fun
10) Drawing: I am good at it and it is fun!
My top 10 favorite sports
Auroba Kahlon * Houston * Age 14

FOOTBALL
BASKETBALL
SWIMMING
TENNIS
KICKBALL

SOCCER
VOLLEYBALL
SOFTBALL
TRACK
GOLF

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Ten Things About Prophets

*Arshia Zafar, * Age 11 * Houston*

A - mbiya, word used for the prophets in the Holy Qur’ān

H - ārūn, the brother of Ḥaḍrat Mūsā

M - uḥammad, the seal of the prophets

D - dam, the first prophet

A - dwūd, brought the book called Zabūr

M - smā‘īl, willing to sacrifice his life

I - ūsuf, the handsome prophet who could interpret dreams

Y - ūnus, survived 3 days in the belly of a whale

A - braham, the forefather of 3 religions (Islām, Christianity, and Judaism)

Y - otal number of prophets is 124,000
1. I like to collect seashells and rocks from all the places I have been to, so I can remember those trips.

2. I like to help my mom cook in the kitchen and then eat the yummy creations, but sometimes I like to try new foods at restaurants.

3. I like to read books, especially adventure and mystery stories.

4. I like to write fiction stories and comic books.

5. I like to play with my little brothers and visit my cousins.

6. I like to travel to new and exciting places with my family.

7. I like to play Pokemon and learn all the interesting facts about the characters (Pikachu is the best!)

8. I like to swim, run and ride my scooter and bike.

9. I like to recite Qur’an out loud and also teach my brother.

10. My favorite thing to do is draw, draw, draw!

Seher Ambar Khan
Age 8 * Los Angeles East
my top ten favorite things to do

rehan mahmood khan
age 6
los angeles east

1. READ QUR’AN, DO KUMON AND FINISH MY HOMEWORK
2. PLAY MARIO ON THE WII
3. PLAY WITH MY BIG SISTER
4. PLAY BASKETBALL WITH MY FRIENDS AND WATCH THE LAKERS
5. BASEBALL, SOCCER AND KARATE
6. GO TO DENNY’S
7. RIDE MY BIKE AND SCOOTER
8. VISIT MY COUSINS AND WRESTLE WITH MY UNCLEs
9. BAKE COOKIES AND EAT THEM ALL UP
10. MEMORIZE SŪRAHS
Allah Al Khaliq: The World of Animals

Written by Ruqaiya Asad

This is a book for children. The book contains original photos and simple text with Qur’ānic references and scientific facts that appeal to children’s natural interest. Purchase at: islamichildrenbooks.webs.com.

The Story of the Noble Qur’ān

Written by Ruqaiya Asad

This is a book for children. It tells the story of the Qur’ān’s revelation and significance in a simple, child friendly story. All original, oil illustrations. Purchase this book at: islamichildrenbooks.webs.com

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How to Respond when the Media Portrays Islam Negatively

By: Maria Tahir . Georgia. Age 13

I think we should stand up for ourselves. No matter what the media says, always respond in a positive way. If someone has the wrong idea about you because you are a Muslim, talk about it to change their point of view. Try to teach Islam to everyone. You cannot blame people for having a certain point of view. It is what the media puts into their heads and everyone has the right to an opinion. Only YOU can make a difference by conveying Islam in a positive way! Make a difference, change a life.

By: Najia Humuyun . Georgia. Age 14

In Islam I see true beauty. The word Islam in definition means submission. But the average American would beg to differ. Terrorists who took the lives of hundreds on the fateful day of 9/11 changed not only the lives of those killed, but the lives of all citizens of the U.S. Islam changed on that day from a religion of love to a suspected terrorist organization, at least in the minds of most U.S. citizens. As Muslims, we all must see it as our duty to defend the beauty of Islam not with Jihad of the sword but with the true Jihad of the latter days—Jihad of the pen. With our pens in hand, we will surely succeed.

Al-Hilāl
TOP TEN Friends

By: Amna Syed. Potomac. Age 8

1. Aneeka—she is polite and nice. She is kind and respectful.
2. Saamia—she is helpful and caring.
3. Nyla—she is honest and clever.
4. Anisa—she is creative and shy.
5. Amanee—she is cheerful.
6. Atika—she is caring.
7. Rosa—she is helpful in school.
8. Ruth—she is friendly with me.
9. Emily—she is responsible and she takes care of my things for me.
10. Alisha—she is funny and makes me laugh.

By: Aneeka Tak. Potomac. Age 7

1. I like Amna because she shares things with me.
2. I like Nyla because she helps me find things.
3. I like Saamia because she always helps me and Amna when we cannot do our Nasirat papers.
4. I like Anisa because her older sister is an assistant of our Nasirat Secretary and assistants help others.
5. I like Amanee because she never breaks a promise.
6. I like Atika because she never complains about anybody.
7. I like Fiza because she makes me feel better.
8. I like Shriya because she is kind.
9. I like Maaya because she lets me wear her clothes.
10. I like Darshini because after school she walks me home.
10 Glorious Names of Allah

By: Ayesha Ahmad. Minnesota. Age 8

There are more than 99 glorious names of Allah. In this issue of Al-Hilal, I am picking 10 and describing them:

1. **Al-‘Alīm: The all knowing**: Allah knows everything.
2. **Al-Fattāḥ: The Opener**: If you get stuck and need help, engage in du‘ā (prayer) and Allah will open the door to the right path.
3. **Al-Khāliq: The Creator**: Allah has created everything!
4. **Al-Kabīr: The Great**: Allah performs many miracles.
5. **Al-Ghaffār: The Most Forgiving**: If you make a bad mistake, engage in du‘ā (prayer) and Allah will forgive you.
6. **Al-Ḥakam: The Judge**: On the Day of Judgment Allah is the judge of all human beings.
7. **Al-Wadūd: The Loving**: Allah loves all of his creations.
8. **As-Salām: Peace**: Allah is the most peaceful and the source of Peace.
9. **Al-‘Azīz: The Mighty**: Allah is the mightiest.
10. **Al-Wāḥid: The One**: “I bear witness that there is no God but Allah, the One without any partner.”
Diversity
By: Faiq Ahmad. Georgia. Age 9

Diversity means...
Individuality and
uniqueness are necessary
Variety is the spice of life
Everything is different from
everything else
Same things are impossible to find
I think this world is better with
differences than without them
Truth is the world would be boring
without diversity
You and I are all different

Guess the Season!
By: Hiba Nasir. Minnesota. Age 7

The snow is falling
Everyone is making a snowman
Everyone is wearing snow pants, warm jackets and scarves
It is very chilly outside
Guess what is the season?
It is winter!
My Ten Favorite Surahs of the Holy Quran

Fatima Minhas. Miami FL.. Age 10

1. Al-Fatihah- A complete and perfect prayer.
2. Al-Kahf- Discusses the rise and fall of nations. Relevant in modern times.
5. Al-Mulk- Proclaims the Lordship and Sovereignty of God.
6. Al-Kafirun- Believers enjoined to hold on to their faith in a hostile environment.
7. Al-Nasr- Believers are informed about the promised Victory.
9. Al-Falaq- To seek protection from the hardships of physical life.
10. Al-Nas- To seek protection from the trials that affect a man’s spiritual development.
Top 10 Qualities of a Nasirah
Sabahat Rahman. Cypress, Houston. Age 8

I thought of many different topics, but chose to share with my fellow readers these qualities I strive to achieve. I prepared this list all by myself, but asked my Dad (Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman) and Mom (Sadaf Monam) for their comments. I arranged and made few changes after their comments.

1. **Honest and truthful**: The truth saves, falsehood destroys; Honesty is the best policy.
2. **Submissive**: Be obedient and a good Muslim.
3. **Salat and Qur’an**: Offer your Salat so that you can get the nearness of Allah; read the Qur’an and learn from it.
4. **Humble**: Do not be someone who brags or boasts.
5. **Respectful**: How you treat others is how you are treated.
6. **Hijab**: On what you wear, what you say, and how you act.
7. **Helping others**: When you see someone in need, extend your help if you can and please Allah.
8. **Cleanliness**: Stay clean and pure yourself and help clean your surroundings (including the mosque).
9. **Perseverance**: Keep on trying, do your best, and pray to Almighty Allah for help.
10. **Connection with Khilafat**: Write to the Khalifatul-Masih (may Allah be his support) and watch Friday sermons.

2011 - Issue 3
Ten Healthy Yummy Foods

Aminah Anwar. Orlando, FL. Age 13

Being healthy is an important part of life, and a big part of being healthy is eating right and exercising. Sometimes it is hard to always eat healthy foods because they do not always taste the greatest. So I have made a list of snacks that taste great and are good for your health too!

10. **Celery logs** - Cut a stick of Celery in pieces about 2-3 inches long. Fill up the pieces to the top with peanut butter. If you wish, add raisins on top to be the “ants” on the log.

9. **Trail mix** - A healthy snack that can have different options. Almonds, walnuts, sunflower seeds, dried apricots, and banana chips are all good ideas. You can even add a little extra something with ‘M&Ms.’

8. **Apple slices and peanut butter** - Peanut butter is a healthier option than having apples and caramel. Make sure you do not go overboard with the peanut butter, too much of anything is not good!

7. **Egg-salad sandwich** - Whole wheat bread is always a healthy choice with sandwiches, and eggs are a good source of protein.

6. **Low-fat yogurt** - Has calcium and low calories. Best of all is that you can choose what flavor you like best.
5. **Unsalted crackers** - These are always a good small snack. They taste great with different toppings like cheese, hummus, or just plain.

4. **Milk shakes** - One simple way to make a great tasting milkshake is blend skim milk, a banana, and a squirt of honey. To add more flavor add some strawberries to the mixture or even add some strawberry banana yogurt!

3. **Salad** - Everyone knows that salad has always been a very healthy choice, but lathering your salad in dressing and burying the greens under cheese is not exactly a good choice. Like I said before, eating in moderation is very important and having anything in the proper amount is fine.

2. **Fruit salad** - If you do not like eating fruit on their own make a fruit salad! Cut various fruits up and mix them in a bowl. A little chaat masaala does not hurt either, does it?

1. **Oatmeal** - I know, I know... oatmeal is not the best thing in the world, but its definitely not the worst! It really helps your body, and you can always try the different variety of flavors like maple brown sugar, cinnamon, peaches and cream, strawberry banana, strawberries and cream, and maple syrup among others.

Those are my top ten healthy and yummy foods, not listed in any particular order. Just remember there are more than ten foods that can be delicious and nutritious. Also keep in mind that it also depends on your taste buds. I can’t really decide what tastes better than what. That is up to you to decide and enjoy!
Khilafat

Rumana Ashraf. Massachusetts. Age 11

Khilafat day is a day to remember all Khalifas in the past and present

We gather around on a day like this, and listen to what Allah has cast

We listen and love respectably true and we hear all the things they have done for you

All the Khalifas are part of the chain, if one part breaks, the rest will strain

So keep the chain going for generations and miles for if it does there will be lot of smiles

All five Khalifas in order did good deeds, they helped other people who are and were in need

All the Khalifas will remain in everyone’s heart, we will never be apart

The Khalifas’ deeds were so pure and true, Satan did not know what to do

The Khalifas were chosen by God himself to guide us through and to tell us exactly what to do

The Khalifas’ missions were to send peace around, which all of us have thankfully found
The Khalifas worshipped and believed in one God, they refused to worship any idol or fraud.

The duty of spreading peace is in their hands, they had to spread it all over the land.

No money, no effort can build up Khilafat, it is pure love of Allah who blessed us with Khilafat.

From one town Qadian where we were banished, look where we are now, all famous and all promised.

So keep the chain going for generations and miles, for if it does there will be lots of smiles.

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Razzaq and Farida

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My Top Ten Favorite Animals
Anisa Asad. Potomac. Age 9

10. Cats: I like cats because they are fluffy and playful.
9. Dragons: One reason I like dragons is that I am very good at drawing them.
8. Reptiles: Reptiles have interesting ways of doing things.
7. Underwater animals: Underwater life is very fascinating.
6. Amphibians: Amphibians sometimes can be funny.
5. Horses: I like how horses can be fast in races.
4. Birds: I like to watch birds fly.
2. Ice Age animals: A lot of animals from the Ice Age are very interesting.
1. Deer: We almost always have at least three deer in our backyard.

I like animals a lot because they are very interesting.
My top ten list is that of my favorite places.
1. **North Carolina**: I like North Carolina because I went to the Outer Banks with my cousins and I had a lot of fun with them there.
2. **New Jersey**: I like New Jersey because that is where my cousins live and I love spending time with them there.
3. **Chicago**: I like Chicago because my aunt lives there and she is a lot of fun to be with. There are a lot of fun things to do there, like going to the Willis Tower where you can stand on a glass floor and see all the way down. It feels like being in the air.
4. **California**: I have never been to California but I would like to visit it to see my cousin. I would like to go and see the beaches there too.
5. **Ohio**: I like to visit Ohio because I have three little cousins there. The older two love to play with me and they are very funny.
6. **Virginia**: This is the place where I have a lot of relatives. My cousins are there and I like to play with them whenever I visit.
7. **Orlando**: This is a favorite place because of Disney World. I want to go there and visit the Wizarding World of Harry Potter because I am a big Harry Potter fan.
8. **Texas**: My sister-in-law’s family lives in Texas and I like visiting them there.
9. **New York**: I went to New York only twice. When I went there the second time my parents took me to the Discovery Museum to see the Harry Potter exhibit. It was really great to see so many of the props from the movies. My mom said that we will go to New York again because there is lot to do there.
10. **England**: I went to England only once when I was very young. I would like to go there again so that I can meet beloved Khalifatul-Masih (may Allah be his support). I also want to go there to see all the famous places.
Top Ten Favorite Foods

Nyla Coudhry (and her parents). Potomac. Age 6

1. **Watermelon**: I like watermelon because if you are thirsty your thirst goes away if you eat it.
2. **Apples**: I like apples because they make your brain stronger.
3. **Cantaloupe**: It is a healthy fruit which helps in digestion. I like it because it tastes good.
4. **Peas**: Eating green stuff is good for your body.
5. **Grapes**: I love grapes because they are healthy and they taste really good.
6. **Sandwiches**: I like to eat sandwiches with lettuce and tomatoes.
7. **Quesadillas**: It is good for you because it is made up of cheese and cheese has calcium which is good for your bones.
8. **Ice cream**: It is so yummy and it is made up of milk. Like cheese, milk has calcium which will make your bones strong.
9. **Ground beef**: I like the way my mother makes ground beef with potatoes. Beef is also healthy because it contains iron.
10. **Cereal**: I eat cereal for breakfast. It is good because it contains a lot of good nutrients.
TOP TEN AHADITH

By: Zeerak Ahmed, Age: 12, Brooklyn NY

Given the assignment, I had to choose my Top Ten something. I had many choices, but finally rested on one. I chose Ahadith because these are the sayings of The Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). This blessed man should be our number one role model due to his immense amount of spiritual and worldly morals and knowledge. After the Holy Qur’an and the Sunnah, we look to hadith for guidance.

Choosing ten was a difficult task. Every Hadith has knowledge that everybody can look to for guidance, each with a significant amount of importance. Here are my top ten hadith:

10: Al-balā’u mu’akkalun bil-mantiqi
Speaking without thinking leads to trouble.

At any time when someone is talking without thinking, chances are that something foul or sinful will come out. That is why when you process what you will say in your mind, you can say something much more positive.

9: Ṭalabul-‘Ilmi Farīdatun ‘Alā Kulli Muslimin Wa Muslimatin
Acquisition of knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim man and woman.

This hadith states the importance of attaining knowledge for every man and woman. Moreover, it
states that women also have the power and will to gain knowledge both secular and religious.

8: Sibābul-Muslimi Fusūqun
Abuse by or of a Muslim is an evil. (Bukhari)

September 11, 2001. A day in which many innocent Muslims are blamed for being extremists and terrorists. Yet this hadith clearly states the evil of terror.

7: Mal-Lā Yarḥam Lā Yurham
One who does not show mercy will not be shown mercy. (Bukhari)

Forgiveness is something only a brave heart can do. Having a brave heart is a good quality in a human. Practicing this Hadith will not only help your moral status, but help you with delicate situations.

6: Sayyidul-Qaumi Khādimuhum
The chief of the people is one who serves them.

A leader who does not take care of his people will be remembered, not as a leader who helped the people, but as a corrupt person. This Hadith clearly shows that people who oppress their citizens do not follow the true teachings of Islam.
5: Man Ghashsha Fa-Laisa Minnî
One who cheats has nothing to do with me.

Whether it is on a test or in a game, cheating is strictly prohibited in Islam. The only way to get true comfort in a 100% on a test or a win for your team is by earning it. And by earning it, you know that you can achieve more, which motivates you to do even better.

4. Khairul-Umūri Ausaṭuhā
In every matter, moderation is best.

A person should take the path of moderation in their activities.

3: Al Majālisu Bil-Amānati
All get-togethers are based on trust.

Why would someone depend on you for help if you are not trustworthy? No one would look at you as a good person, but just as a stain in the world.

2: Aṣ-Ṣidqu Yunjī Wal-Kadhibu Yuhliku
Truth saves, falsehood destroys.

Being truthful relieves you of all your burdens, and opens a gate for help and hope. In contrast, falsehood builds on your burden, and every lie, you will have to
back up with another, and if you get caught, no one will help you, because the gateway is closed.

1: Khairukum Man Ta'allamul-Qur'āna Wa 'Allamahū

The best among you is the one who learns the Qur'an and teaches it. (Bukhari)

What other way of practicing your life than by the words of Allah? And what better benefit do you get by learning it? And what other happiness do you get when you can repeat the perfect words of Allah through your own tongue?

My Most Favorite Top Ten

(Not in Any Specific Order)

1- Complete my First Recitation of the Holy Qur'an ASAP
2- Be the Best Girl Scout
3- Jewelry
4- Be an Excellent Top Soccer (Special-ED Soccer) Buddy
5- Be a Great Friend
6- Be a Role Model as a Good Girl
7- Visit New York City
8- Visit Mount Rushmore
9- Be the Best Dress Designer
10- Be Good at Riding the Scooter

By: Sahar Khan, Virginia North, Age: 8

Al-Hilāl
My Top Ten Favorite Colors

By: Ruksabha Zaman Rickty, Age 11, Queens, NY

1) Pink- reminds me of when my baby sister came home in a pink blanket.

2) Lavender- reminds me of when we went to the botanical gardens in spring.

3) Sky Blue- reminds me of the sky when I went kite-flying.

4) Red- reminds me of when we went apple picking

5) Orange- reminds me of when I baked pumpkin pie.

6) Yellow- reminds me of my favorite blanket.

7) Green- reminds me of my dad’s favorite chili peppers.

8) White- reminds me of vanilla ice-cream.

9) Brown- reminds me of my first teddy bear.

10) Black- reminds me of the tea my mom likes to drink.
Top Ten Things to do with my Free Time

Labeena Ehsan, Age 7, Pittsburgh

My name is Labeena. I am 7 years old and I am a Waqf-e-Nau girl. These are my top ten favorite things to do in my free time.

1. reading a book
2. drawing pictures
3. painting
4. writing stories
5. riding my bike outside
6. sightseeing
7. drinking milk
8. writing in my journal
9. playing with toys in my room
10. sleeping

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Allah is my Creator; He created me just fine
I have two eyes, nose, ears; I look mighty fine.

Allah is an excellent Painter; look around and you will see
The mountains, the trees, the flowers and the big Ocean and Sea.

Allah is a keen Listener; I pray and He listens
We talk and pray, we work and pray, Allah is there to listen.

Allah is Samad; without any needs
We have plenty of needs; but His being is totally Unique.

Allah is there from the Beginning and will be there till the end
We come and go, have children and parents, Yet He continues alone.

Allah is Gracious; He gives without asking
Our needs are plenty yet He provides to all, just the same.

Allah is Merciful; He accepts our prayers
He gives me what I ask for; I am showered by His Mercy.

Allah is a Forgiver; He knows we are weak
Our mistakes are forgiven when we pray with humility.

Allah is the Greatest; the Sustainer; the All Knowing
How can I try to put to words His beauty; when I am just a creation?

Allah is One; His Uniqueness has no equal
He has many names; Oh! What beautiful names indeed!

Top Ten Books

Here are my favorite top ten books.

1. All the Scaredy Squirrel books by Melanie Watt. The books are funny and creative and Scaredy Squirrel always has a plan.

2. The Rainbow Magic Fairy series by Daisy Meadows. They always have wonderful mysteries on how to find the stolen objects.
3. **The A-Z Mysteries** by Ron Roy have interesting alphabetical titles. And they have fabulous mysteries.

4. **Love You Forever** by Robert Munch has great illustrations and the story is amazing!

5. Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton Jones wrote a series called **The Bailey School Kids** and they are my favorite because the kids solve mysteries.

6. **South Dakota** (series) by Michael Burgan is my favorite because on the cover the scenery is beautiful.

7. **Berenstain Bears** (series) by Stan, Jan and Mike Berenstain always have good lessons to learn.

8. **Friend In Need** by Justine Korman is a favorite of mine because no matter who you are you can help some one.

9. **Night before Summer Vacation** by Natasha Wing has fun and creative ideas.

10. **Batman** (series) by Robert Greenberger may be a boy book, but it is in my top ten because Batman is a perfect crime fighter.

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**By: Meheen Piracha, Age: 9, Dallas**
Did you know?

1. If you put Saturn in water it would float.
2. Not everyone dreams in color.
3. A snail can sleep for three years.
4. Rain contains vitamin B12.
5. Rubber is one of the ingredients in bubble gum.
6. The average 4-year old ask about 400 questions… a day!
7. The strongest muscle in your body is actually your tongue.
8. Polar Bears are said to be left-handed (though not scientifically proven).
9. Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.
10. All U.S. presidents have worn glasses at one time or another.

Fatima Muzaffar, Northern Virginia, Age: 14

Top 10 Favorite Places I Would Like To Go!

The top ten places I would like to go are Paris, Los Angeles, London, San Francisco, Bahamas, Edinburgh, Puerto Rico, Miami, Las Vegas, and Hawaii. The reason I would like to go there is because they are very beautiful places and I would like to discover them and know more about them.

Rida Ahmad, Age: 12, Northern VA
1. Burj Khalifa (Abu Dhabi, UAE) - I picked this place because it was so cool to see the tallest building in the world. The top peak could touch the clouds!
2. Hershey's Park (Penn., USA) - I picked this place because there were many fun rides and lots of chocolate to eat.
3. Ruby Falls (Tenn., USA) - I picked this place because I got to visit it with my Aunty from Dubai. It was so beautiful to see the fall in the dark!
4. Bait-ur-Rahman (Maryland, USA) - I picked this place because it is a very beautiful mosque.
5. White House (Washington D.C., USA) - I picked this place because our US president lives there and it is such a huge house!
6. Stone Mountain (Georgia, USA) - I picked this place because I love the laser show they present every night during the summer. It is so pretty with all the colorful fireworks in the sky at night.
7. Qā’id-i-A’żam Mazār (Karachi, Pakistan) - I picked this place because I felt so lucky to be able to visit the place that honors the man that made my home country, Pakistan. [Mazār: Tomb]
8. Coca Cola Factory (Georgia, USA) - I picked this place because I love Coke very much and I had so much fun tasting all the different flavors.
9. CNN (Georgia, USA) - I picked this place because I got to visit it with my grandparents when they came to the USA for the first time.
10. Georgia Aquarium (Georgia, USA) - I picked this place because I got to see many kinds of ocean animals that I could never have imagined seeing before in my life. My favorite animal I saw was the scary SHARK!

By: Sabahat Pall, Helped by mother: Farhat Pall, Georgia
1. Some ancient Egyptian priests shaved or plucked all their hair including their eyelashes and eyebrows.
2. The number symbol, #, is also known as an “octothorpe.”
3. Human thighbones are stronger than concrete.
4. When glass breaks the cracks can move faster than 3,000 miles/5,000 km per hour.
5. Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
6. Generally you use more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.
7. ‘Rhythms” is one of the longest English word without a vowel.
8. An ancient Greek vase from 500 B.C. shows a small boy playing with a yo-yo!
9. If you spell “stressed” backwards you get “desserts.” Coincidence?
10. Camels have three eyelids to protect their eyes from blowing sand.

By: Aysha Mughal, Age: 14,
Northern VA
We Want to Hear from You!!!

Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication. Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

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Whoso does a good deed shall have ten times as much; but he who does an evil deed, shall have only a like reward; and they shall not be wronged. [6:161]