

The Confidence to Be ME

Sometimes in order to make a change in your life you have to look within yourself to find the courage and strength to grow and make that change. Finding that courage and strength is not always easy but it is worth trying when it is for a positive change. A time in my life where I had to look within myself was when I had to find the courage to be different and stand out from my friends by wearing my hijab.

Hijab is the name of the headscarf Muslim women wear. At the age of 9 we choose if we want to start wearing it or not. When I first decided to wear the hijab, I was both excited and nervous because I didn't know what challenges I might face wearing it at school, in my community, or in the future because I am not surrounded by other young girls that also wear it. When I started wearing the hijab, I became a little self-conscious because I didn't know what people would think of me. Although nothing had changed about me as a person on the inside, I looked physically different and I felt that people might look and treat me differently because of it.

Sometimes it was difficult wearing the hijab; especially during the hot summer days or when someone would say something rude about it. I would become frustrated and think twice about continuing to wear it. Sometimes I felt like I wanted to take it off because of the challenges I faced but I kept going. I did not want to give up something that meant a lot to me just because of what others thought and said to me. I had to look within myself to find the confidence, strength, and courage to keep going. The more I reflected and looked deeper in myself, I knew I was still the same funny, friendly, and kind person I was before I decided to wear a headscarf. I was happy to have friends around me that accepted me for who I was and not what I wore on my head.

Wearing the hijab is a life-long commitment and looking within myself is something I practice every day to remind myself of the power I have as a person which is more important than the challenges I face every day wearing my hijab!

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2011... I made a change in my life... I decided to look within myself to find the courage and strength to grow and make that change... I realized that it is not always easy to be who you are... I decided to look at myself and see what I could do to become the person I wanted to be...

This is the name of the character... I decided to write the story... I wanted to write about a person who was different and who was not afraid to be who they are... I wanted to write about a person who was different and who was not afraid to be who they are... I wanted to write about a person who was different and who was not afraid to be who they are...

It was difficult writing the story... I wanted to write about a person who was different and who was not afraid to be who they are... I wanted to write about a person who was different and who was not afraid to be who they are... I wanted to write about a person who was different and who was not afraid to be who they are...

Writing the book is a life-long commitment and looking within myself is something I practice every day... I remind myself of the power I have as a person who is not afraid to be who I am... I remind myself of the power I have as a person who is not afraid to be who I am...

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