



Dr. Haleh Massey

My Name is Harriet Mansoor (Not Hairy Man Suit!)

Why read this book?

My Name Is Harriet Mansoor (NOT Hairy Man Suit!) is a humorous, emotionally honest middle-grade novel that explores what it feels like to be different at school and at home. Harriet is navigating bullying, puberty, friendship drama, and family pressure while also figuring out how to speak up for herself. It's especially strong for sparking conversations about identity, belonging, and cultural expectations.

Great for readers who...

- Are navigating middle school friendships, crushes, or bullying
- Who have ever felt “different” from peers because of culture, appearance, or family rules
- Enjoy funny, voice-driven realistic fiction with deeper emotional themes
- Benefit from stories about confidence, self-advocacy, and belonging
- Like books with relatable school-life chaos and family dynamics



Looking for your next great read?

Check out all of the Read with RIF book club picks at rif.org/literacy-central.

My Name Is Harriet Mansoor (NOT Hairy Man Suit!)

Author: Dr. Haleh Massey

Illustrator: Rashin Kheiriyeh

Themes: Self-Acceptance, Friendship, Courage

Book Brief: Harriet Mansoor is trying to survive middle school while figuring out who she really is. This story shows how she learns to speak up and be proud of her identity.



BEFORE READING

To activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Ask, “How can names be an important part of who we are? Have you ever had someone mispronounce your name or call you something you didn’t like? How did that make you feel?”
- Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how Harriet responds to challenges at school and home, and notice how she learns to speak up for herself and embrace her identity.”

DURING READING

To engage students, check for understanding, and make connectons.

- How do the different names Harriet is called affect how she sees herself?
- What role does friendship play in helping Harriet cope with difficult situations?
- Why is it hard for Harriet to speak up for herself, both at school and at home?
- How do Harriet’s parents’ expectations shape her choices and emotions?
- What moments show Harriet starting to gain confidence or take control of her story?

AFTER READING

To summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask, “How does Harriet respond to the challenges she faces at school and at home, and what helps her begin to speak up for herself and embrace her identity?”
- Have students create a badge that highlights their name, interests, personality, and what makes them unique. Then, encourage them to share one meaningful part of their badge with a partner or group.
- Use the questions on the next page to continue the conversation after reading. Talk together, share personal connections, and explore how the themes in the story connect to real life. There are no right or wrong answers, just thoughtful discussion and listening.

Beyond the Book: Conversation Starters



For the classroom

1. How can we safely explore identity and self-expression in our classroom community?
2. In what ways can bullying be addressed proactively through classroom norms?
3. How can this story support conversations about cultural identity?

For at home

1. Talk about a time you felt misunderstood or labeled by others. What helped you move past it?
2. Discuss family rules or traditions: which ones help you feel connected, and which ones feel hard to follow?
3. Share ways your family can support each other when someone is being treated unfairly.

“My Name, My Story” Shield

The shield is divided into four equal quadrants by a vertical line and a horizontal line. Each quadrant contains a prompt for a personal story.

<p>My name</p>	<p>Things that make me unique</p>
<p>Words others might use to describe me</p>	<p>How I want others to treat me</p>

