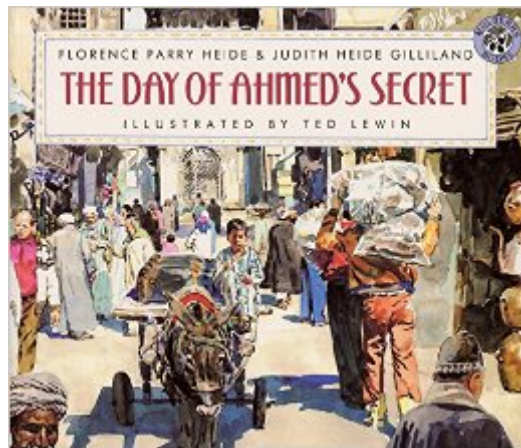


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# Day Of Ahmed's Secret



## Synopsis

The Day of Ahmed's SecretAs young Ahmed delivers butane gas to customers all over the city of Cairo, he thinks, I have a secret. All day long, as he maneuvers his donkey cart through streets crowded with cars and camels, down alleys filled with merchants' stalls, and past buildings a thousand years old, Ahmed keeps his secret safe inside. It is so special, so wonderful, that he can reveal it only to his family, only when he returns home, only at the end of the day.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD810L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1st Mulberry ed edition (April 25, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0688140238

ISBN-13: 978-0688140236

Product Dimensions: 10.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #208,340 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #107 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #241 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

An especially beautiful and thought-provoking book. The story transports us to Cairo, Egypt, where we are invited to observe a day in the life of a young Egyptian boy who sells gas canisters to help his family, all the while, harboring a secret. A must read if you are interested in learning about other cultures, and about the lives of millions of children around the world. The authors capture the culture, a sense of the language (poetic), the spirit of the people, as well as their philosophy of life. We even get some idea of the geography and history of Egypt; and all of this in a children's book. This is truly an wholistic piece of work. The illustrator does a marvelous job of capturing the sights and colors of Cairo. I have been so impressed by this book as to have recommended it to countless students and teachers in the school system where I teach. I have even been moved to write and

thank the authors, who graciously responded. I would also highly recommend the authors' other two books in this trilogy of stories set in the Middle East: 'The House of Wisdom' set in ninth-century Baghdad, Iraq (poetic), and 'Sami and the Time of the Troubles' set in modern day Lebanon. [Read an interview with the authors in November 1999 issue of 'Book Links' magazine.]

I love this book because it conveys better than any book I've seen the magic of the breakthrough to literacy. The excitement of this working class boy who will now embark upon a whole new world because he has the first tool captures a precious moment in every child's life - and all this is accomplished with a text and illustrations that are bright and alive.

I loved this book. it is amazing. the words are lovely, the plot enchanting, and the illustrations are superb. if you can avoid it, don't let anyone tell you ahmed's secret until you can read it for yourself. it's well worth reading the whole thing to find it.

I came across this book at the Dearborn Arab-American Festival, the largest Arab festival in North America. And I'm so glad I did. Vivid illustrations, and an engrossing storyline. Heide reveals a very realistic Cairo street life, unknown to most Western adults, and here very easy for kids to relate to through the eyes of the young child, Ahmed. I smiled as I read and saw different scenes, like the rose-water man, and remembered walking through Cairo and seeing these very people. The scenes are gritty- not white-washed, yet also very relationally connected, with people caring for each other and showing true hospitality, the hallmark of Egyptian life. This child isn't a terrorist; it's a young child; it's real life. When he finally reveals his secret, it's the joy of a child first learning to read, just like any Western or American child. But he's also truly Egyptian- he presents his name in Arabic. After we read this, I and the children in the library learned to write our names in Arabic, and then we \*had\* to get some rosewater ice cream, in order to fully immerse ourselves in the book. If you can get ahold of it, I highly recommend!

I gave this a 5 star rating for many reasons: the book arrived much earlier than expected and in perfect condition! I bought a few copies to give as gifts for friends in teaching/childcare professions and for friends who are having kids of their own. I recently went to Egypt to travel around, and after being there, and reading this book, I can't imagine a book having better illustrations. The font is classic black color and great size (easy to read and not distracting for kids at all). I can't write enough about the illustrations- they are so incredibly lifelike, that you really feel like you're in the

streets of Cairo while reading it. I would recommend this book for gift giving, or for kids 4th grade and under. I would also recommend this for anyone who wants to spark a curiosity and appreciation for cultures in children at an early age.

Lavishly illustrated. Throughout the bustling city of today's Cairo, young Ahmed rides his donkey cart, past buildings a thousand years old. The sights and sounds of the city fill the day, and when at last Ahmed hurries home, young readers will be excited to learn the secret Ahmed has been waiting to share with his family - he has learned to write his name! Teachers/Librarians: wonderful for K - 6th grades. Those 5th and 6th graders would love seeing how their name looks written in the Arabic script. Ask an Arab parent or someone in your community to do this for your class, or send your class set of names (first names only) to this reviewer and I'll write them out, scan them and send them back to you. (Include your grade level and name/location of school please.)

This is a very sweet book. This multicultural book welcomes the reader into Ahmed's life through the first person point of view. The illustrations are a wonderful compliment to the words. The reader meets the city in which Ahmed lives, the people who surround him, and his family values which are easily related to children's lives. I read with anticipation wondering what the secret could be. I closed this book with a smile on my face.

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