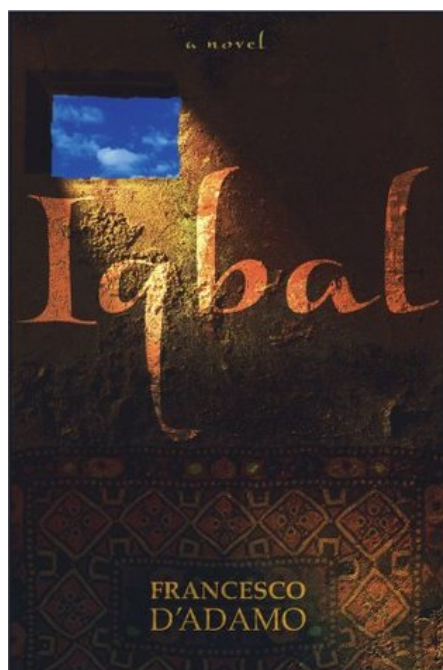




Iqbal

Francesco D'Adamo , Ann Leonori

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When young Iqbal is sold into slavery at a carpet factory, his arrival changes everything for the other overworked and abused children there. It is Iqbal who explains to them that despite their master's promises, he plans on keeping them as his slaves indefinitely. But it is also Iqbal who inspires the other children to look to a future free from toil...and is brave enough to show them how to get there.

This moving fictionalized account of the real Iqbal Masih is told through the voice of Fatima, a young Pakistani girl whose life is changed by Iqbal's courage.

Iqbal Details

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From Reader Review Iqbal for online ebook

Mackenzie says

This book is an inspiring story of told by Fatima a slave in Pakistan. Working for Hussain Khan for three years to pay of the money her parents owed the moneylenders, she spends every day making carpets in a factory with other kids. Every day, if the work is good enough, Hussain Khan erases one of the lines representing, the debt from the slate that is above her loom. But somehow after being erased the lines on her slate are never done, neither are any of the other children's slate. Iqbal is sad when he comes, but different than the other children. Even being chained to his loom, he isn't afraid of Hussain Khan. He works better than any other kid in the factory.

The children in the factory find out that Iqbal is weaving a Blue Bukhara, a carpet that has a vey complicated pattern. One morning, some people come to the factory. Hussain Khan wants it to be perfect, but Iqbal rips up the Blue Bukhara into pieces. The carpet is ruined, and Iqbal is put into the Tomb, the Tomb is used to punish the children

Iqbal promises Fatima that someday they will fly a kite together. Then he runs away by climbing out the window. Iqbal comes back three days later with two policemen. Fatima watches them hand a struggling Iqbal back to Hussain Khan in exchange for two small stacks of money. Iqbal is sent to the Tomb for so long that they forget the number. When he comes out he told the other kids that he had heard a speech from the Bonded Labor Liberation Front of Pakistan. The guy said that being slaves was now illegal, and Iqbal had told the police that he was a slave and they brought him back to Hussain Khan. Iqbal showed them a pamphlet from the Liberation Front, but no one can read, but then they find out that Maria can. She has never spoken before, Maria starts to speak and is able to teach them. In a year, everyone can read the pamphlet and the address at the bottom. Iqbal escapes again during a fight between the kids.

He comes back with the leader of the Liberation Front. The children are freed. Not sure of where to go, the children go to the Liberation Front headquarters till they are reunited with their families. They are washed, fed and given comfortable sleeping quarters. Iqbal keeps his promise to Fatima, and they spend an afternoon flying a kite together as, one by one, the children are returned to their families. Soon only Karim, Iqbal, Maira, and Fatima have not gone back to their families.

Eventually Fatima goes back and lives with her family. Maria and her stay in touch by sending letters to each other. Then , Maria sends a letter that says that Iqbal was killed on a bicycle by a shot fired by a man in a car before the car sped away. Maria is still the Liberation Front headquarters. She tells Fatima to tell Iqbal's story, to keep it alive.

This book made me feel many emotions. Many times I felt pangs if anger at the way Hussain Khan and others treated the child slaves. I felt a deep anger when I read about the Tomb, and how on pg 41 after he tells them about a wild boy who used to work here and wouldn't work. "So the master put him in Tomb?" "Five days he kept him there." "And did he come out?" "Yeah he cam out. They carried him out like the dead, but he didn't die. He was burned from the heat and his skin had peeled away." This made me feel sorrowful for all the children slaves, but the he part where i felt most sorrowful was pg 118 where Iqbal dies. Him dying made me sorrowful but the fact that this story is true and this is happening to children made me really appreciate my life.

Reeda Booke says

The story of a brave boy who was sold to a rug factory as a slave to pay off a family debt and his courageous battle to free all children in slavery for a hope of a better life as free children. This is a true story as told by Fatima, who was also a child slave, and recounts his life to free them from a life of cruelty, long hours and little food.

It was a heartbreaking story, sure to bring tears to your eyes, but also a story of bravery and courage for one so young to be able to stand up for himself and many others. That his life was cut short was tragic.

Anoushka K. says

And... now Iqbal is over! I just felt a whirlwind of emotions during this book. D'Adamo takes real events and a sort of poeticism to create a tale that is both sad and uplifting, and the result took my breath away. It was amazing.

"My sister, I don't know where you're going, or how I'll be able to communicate with you, or even if we'll meet again. I just beg of you, don't forget. Tell somebody our story. Tell everyone our story. So that the memory will not be lost.

That's the only way to keep Iqbal at our sides forever."

Neha Patel says

Amazing representation of child labor and the bravery boy who opposed it!

Euna Lee says

Based on the true accounts of a real life hero, Iqbal Masih, "Iqbal" leaves the reader captivated by the heroic young children of the book and saddened by the existence of child bondage and slavery. The most compelling element of the book was evidently the characters. The tribulations of each child told through the eyes of Fatima and his heroic escape from bondage in the carpet factory inspires any reader who can feel the pain as the children face abuse, neglect and harsh exploitation.

Chapter One begins with the quote, "Yes, I knew Iqbal. I think about him often. I like to. I feel I owe it to him. You see, for Iqbal I was not invisible. I existed, and he made me free. So here is his story. As I remember it. As I knew him." Reading it again after finishing the book, it voices all the children who are affected by the heroic deeds of a young boy who wanted freedom for all. I believe this could be a great book to teach students the history of child labor laws and children's rights.

Maya Palavali says

This book is so good that if I had a bucket of stars, I would dump it on this book. Real rating: Infinite stars.??

Mallory Bourke says

This book was gut wrenching to read at certain points, because of the images that are created by the author's description. It is about a young boy from Pakistan named Iqbal. He is very brave, which also gets him into a lot of trouble. You can't help but root for this character who is a hero. You are constantly scared of what may happen to the characters. I really enjoyed reading the book and it is something I would introduce to my students who may not have a lot of knowledge about what happens in this country with young children. I can honestly say it opened my eyes to the injustices that these children are faced with. I am so comfortable in my own little world that I forget there are situations like this one happening everyday.

Daniel E says

I give the first half of Iqbal a go three. First, I like "Iqbal". Next I like story. However, I do not like Hussein Khan because he is bad for all these reasons, I give the first half of Iqbal a three.

Sarah Edwards says

Iqbal is based on Iqbal Masih's life as a bonded laborer in Pakistan during the early 1990s. This fictionalized account of what happens when one boy lets go of fear to better his plight and help his friends find freedom is inspirational and motivating. It leads readers to investigate and question the enforcement of human rights globally.

This historical fiction text incorporates a plethora of figurative language and symbolism. The vocabulary utilized is basic enough for an upper elementary school student to easily comprehend, and the content is deep enough that it could stretch the inquiry of an 8th grader. *Iqbal* has the power to open the eyes of students to what childhood may look like to those stuck in the cycle of poverty. While the cultural differences may feel abundant at first, the story is written in a way that allows the reader to connect with the characters in meaningful ways and realize they are not so different.

I imagine that this book could be used as a read aloud, independent unit, or part of literature circles. Themes of courage, hope, ethics, justice, and human rights would be valuable for students to reflect on. The way D'Adamo introduces and develops his many characters would also be beneficial for students learning characterization.

Cecily says

I thought the book "Iqbal" by Francesco D'Adamo was very good. The story is told through the eyes of a

young girl named Fatima, who works in a carpet factory with other children. The work is hard and not fit for children. Life is hard for them, until Iqbal arrives and changes everything.

I thought this book was very good because the story was interesting. The story was always very surprising. One example of this is when Iqbal sliced the carpet that would make the master, Hussain Khan, a lot of money. I certainly did not expect that to happen, most likely nor did any other reader. I also liked how the author added in the influence he had on the other children. for example, after he tells Maria about kites, she weaves a kite in her carpet. When Hussain Khan threatens to put her in the tomb for doing this, the other children all yell, "Put me in with her!" I thought this was very brave of the children and Maria. Another aspect I like about this book is how it spreads awareness about children who have to work in such bad conditions. I think people everywhere should read the this book.

Linda Lipko says

When finishing a book such as this, I'm reminded why I love to read! Books open a world of information and a few pages of a previous unknown subject can lead to the craving to learn more and more and more.

Iqbal is a fictionalized novel based on a real-life young man who made a tremendous difference in Pakistan and drew a bright light on the dark, dirty, despicable issue of child slave labor.

Iqbal Masih was a child slave sold by his mother to pay family debts. It was not uncommon for money lenders to prey on helpless poor people, lending them amounts they were not able to repay. In return, children were taken and worked (sometimes to death) under barbaric conditions.

At the age of five, Iqbal was enslaved in a carpet factory, chained to a loom, where, like many, he worked night and day with little food, little light and no contact with the outside world.

Iqbal escaped twice, once he was returned at the hands of corrupt policemen who received bribes. Successfully escaping the second time he sought help from the Bonded Labor Liberation Front who helped to free him and many.

Sadly, in 1995, at the age of 12, he was murdered . He is indeed a hero!

And now, because of this book, I'm off on a new journey to learn as much as possible, not only about Iqbal, but about child labor in Pakistan and throughout the world. ()

Lucia Candano says

The book Iqbal by Francesco D'Adamo is a book about child labor in Pakistan. The author is a girl called Fatima who is affected by Iqbal's arrival. Iqbal is a 10 year old boy who just arrived where Fatima is held a slave, Hussain Khan's carpet factory. Iqbal shows all of the kids that although Hussain shows them how each day he erases a mark on their slates to freedom, their debt will never really be paid. At first, the children don't believe him and don't really like him, but after many events of him proving that they must do something about how their lives are. One really good thing about the book is that it has many characters and gives you a wide view so that you can develop your own opinions and likings. Although it is a great book, at times it is a little predictable and some questions remain unanswered, like why he cut the blue baggera rug. Overall, I think that this is a great book because everyone can have their own opinion, and it gives a great

message; If you strongly believe towards something, work and try until you accomplish your dream. Iqbal is really well written and has many complex characters that lead to a lot of thinking. I would recommend this book to students, especially for book clubs because it is great for discussing and it has many great sentences to analyze and think deeper for annotations. The discussion when it comes to this book is great and I think it is a very good book.

KellenD says

I thought it was a really good book. I think it is a great balanced book and I like how it gave detail.

Dana says

This book is a very symbolic book about freedom, hope, and child labor. This books is about Iqbal, and Fatima, two children who are indentured slaves in Pakistan. Fatima narrates the book, while Iqbal is the main character. Iqbal is sold from merchant to merchant because he is rebellious. One of the many times he runs away he runs across an activist that is against child labor. He trusts in the wrong people and he confides to the corrupt police force that he is a runaway. They take him back to his master where he is severely punished. Iqbal stands up to his master and everyone is freed. Not every ending is a happy one, though. You must read this book to find out what happens. This book is slightly fictionalized. Iqbal was a real child that existed and helped many people to safety.

arcobaleno says

Questo è un romanzo importante, costruito su una storia vera, quella di Iqbal Masih, un bambino pakistano che, dopo anni di sfruttamento per la lavorazione dei tappeti, nel 1992 ha avuto il coraggio di ribellarsi al suo aguzzino per permettere di denunciare le "mafie dei tappeti". E' una bella storia di speranza che Francesco D'Adamo ha ricostruito con semplicità per lasciarne traccia, affinché il tempo non annebbi, insieme alla voce di Iqbal, quella di tutti i bambini sfruttati. Dunque *un romanzo di denuncia, commosso e indignato, sul valore della libertà e della memoria che, a tutti i costi, va salvata, perché senza memoria non c'è speranza nel futuro.*

Il romanzo, scritto per i ragazzi ma naturalmente rivolto tutti, continua per fortuna a essere ristampato dal 2001. Cinque stelle per il valore sociale e umano. Tre per quello letterario: la semplicità del linguaggio appiattisce, a mio parere, la narrazione e imbriglia il (mio) coinvolgimento; eppure permette, anche ai ragazzi più pigri, di procedere con facilità nella lettura (che non è un fattore da sottovalutare!).

Qui per sapere qualcosa di più su Iqbal Masih.
