

Ameen Mukhtar

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There are many things I appreciate about myself. One thing I appreciate is that I am willing to work. The minute I get home from school, I begin homework even though I feel hungry and tired. I also unload the dishwasher so that my mother doesn't have to do it. I sort laundry and hang them in my closet in my room. I also help my mother cook scrambled eggs and wash dishes. I clean up my room every day by making my bed and putting away toys. One time my brother's friend trashed the whole area, and I cleaned for thirty minutes. I'm so glad that I am a hard worker.

There are many things I appreciate about my family too. I enjoy spending time with them. I love reading books together on the couch. I also had a great time biking the Golden Gate Bridge with my mom, dad, and two brothers. I rode all the way to Sausalito. I also go to Borders Book Store with my parents and siblings which is very fun because you can always sit and read with some hot chocolate. Another thing I appreciate about my family is that they celebrate special events with treats. My parents go buy me toys on my birthday and Eid. Also, when I began reading the Quran, my parents bought me a gift. When I memorized ten surahs my parents were so happy that they bought me a fifty dollar present. Before Eid morning my mother and father got up in the middle of the night and set up helium balloons all over our bedroom. I was amazed when I woke up. I love when my parents spend time with me and celebrate with me. It makes me feel secure.

There are many things I appreciate about my community. My neighborhood in San Ramon is called The Lake. The lake is so beautiful, masha'Allah. It's such a peaceful place that ducklings are born there. I am amazed by how magnificent it is, masha'Allah. I also love our cranes who fly over the lake. There is also a stork with a long beak, and one time I saw it carrying a huge fish. I see many fish that swim in our lake. Another one of my top favorite things about my community is my school ILM Tree in Lafayette. It is a Muslim co-op on a ranch which has over fifty students in it, masha'Allah. Our school teaches six subjects four days a week, and it ends at 4:00 pm. I appreciate my school because my friends talk, play, and study with me. I also enjoy the horses and chickens that pitter-patter all over our farm. Another blessing from Allah is our masjid. Our masjid holds events like Family Nights and arranges Food Drives for the poor and hungry. In my masjid I feel safe and humble. That is why I appreciate my masjid. My community makes me feel important because they do things that I care about.

One thing I would appreciate is if I wasn't so messy. I know I clean up messes, but I still make them a lot. If I didn't make so many messes, my mom would not have to clean up everything I do. It would make my two brothes and father get stuff done faster than usual because things would be organized. I would be able to find my clothes easily in the morning if I was organized. I plan to lay out my morning clothes at night and put my dirty clothes in the hamper. I also plan to make my bed in the morning and put my backpack in the van so that I won't forget my books.

If we don't appreciate ourselves, our families, and our communities, Allah could take them away from us. We need to be grateful for our gifts.

