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Review of *Bilal Cooks Daal* by Aisha Saeed

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Bilal Cooks Daal

Saeed, Aisha

Illustrated by: Anoosha Syed

New York: Salaam Reads, 2019

9781534418103

Bilal Cooks Daal is a captivating story about a young boy named Bilal and his friends cooking daal, a traditional Middle Eastern food, for dinner. Bilal is excited to share daal with his friends, but his excitement turns to worry because daal is so different from what his friends usually eat. Bilal's friends are excited too, but slightly skeptical. However, after they all enjoy the daal together, they decide that it is a wonderful meal. Saeed and Syed capture an unbelievable amount of diversity in 33 pages in a way that feels welcoming and natural. The narrative and pictures invite the reader to explore something that might be different from their everyday lives, and Saeed includes a recipe for the daal that Bilal makes in the book so that the reader and a parent or teacher could try something new, just like Bilal's friends. **Highly**

Recommended Ashley Riddle, Centennial Library Intern, Cedarville University