

**ZANIB MIAN** ILLUSTRATED BY  
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# MEET THE MALIKS

## TWIN DETECTIVES

ACTIVITIES AND IDEAS FOR KS2 TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

Suitable for: Ages 7+

### Explore themes of:

- British Muslim Representation
- Family and Identity
- Detective Stories
- Creating Humour

### Subject Checklist:

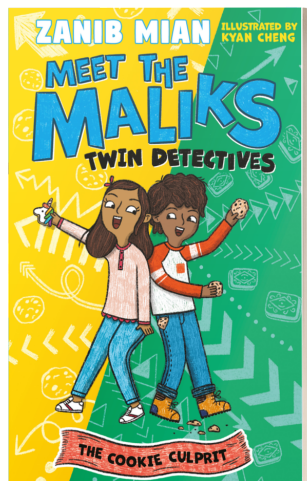
- Literacy
- Creative Writing
- Art, Design & Technology
- PSHE
- Citizenship
- R.E.

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Meet Maysa and Musa Malik. They might be twins but they are total opposites. And together they make an unstoppable team, especially when trying to solve a mystery!

Maysa Malik just can't seem to be good like her twin, Musa. So, when she isn't allowed to go on a school trip, Maysa tries to change her parents' minds by taking part in a cookie competition at the mosque.

But when the cookies are all destroyed, it's up to Maysa, Musa and their neighbour, Norman, to solve the mystery. They'll have to put their detective hats on to catch the culprit – and help save Maysa's reputation.



## 1: BRITISH MUSLIM FAMILY AND IDENTITY

As a class, read Chapter 1 of the book!

### READING QUESTIONS:

- Why does Musa gives Maysa a 'cheeky smile'?
- What is 'madrassah'?
- What is Maysa worried her parents will do if she gets into trouble?
- What does Maysa do 'way too much'?
- In what ways are Maysa and Musa similar, and in what ways are they different?
- Why is there 'a special sparkle in the air'?
- How does Maysa feel about her family? How can you tell?

### ACTIVITY 1: MUSLIM IDENTITY GLOSSARY

Maysa and Musa's Muslim faith and identity is very important to them and is a prominent theme in the book. As you read, refer to the cards and write down definitions for the different terms related to British Muslim family life and identity. Note down any page numbers where the word or phrase is mentioned in the book. How is each card important to the story as a whole?

**Madrassah**

**Alhamdulillah**

**Ramadan**

**Fajr**

**Dhuhr**

**Asr**



**Maghrib**

**Dhikr**

**Taraweeh**

**Ramadan  
Mubarak**

**Mosque**

**Kaaba**

**Imam**

**Qur'an**

**Suhur**

**Assalamu  
Alaikum**

**Allah**

**Isha**



**Samosa**

**Iftar**

**Hijab**

**Shalwar  
Kameez**

**Haram**

**Jalebi**

**When you have found definitions for the cards, place them into the different categories below:**

- 1. Islamic Faith**
- 2. Food and Drink**
- 3. Clothing**



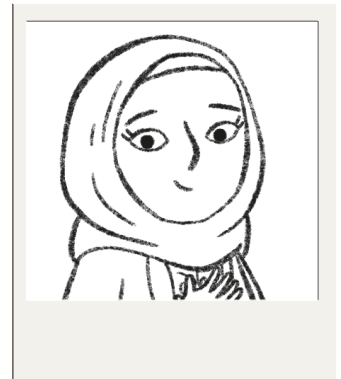
## ACTIVITY 2: THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

What do you learn about Maysa and Musa's family life in Chapter 1?

Look at the Malik Family Portrait Gallery below. Underneath each family member in the gallery, write down their name, their personality traits, their interests, and any worries they might have. Would you add any other family members to the gallery?

What are the relationships like between each of the family members?

### MALIK FAMILY PORTRAIT GALLERY



## 2: WRITING FUNNY STORIES

As a class, read Chapter 6 of the book!

### READING QUESTIONS:

- Why does Mr Saleh tell the children off? What is funny about this?
- Why does Maysa try her best 'not to daydream or look at Slime-ah'?
- What makes the children in the class laugh when the brothers arrive?
- What is 'highly contagious'? What does contagious mean?
- How does Binyamin make the children laugh even more? What does he do?
- Have you ever had 'belly-busting hysterics', like Yasin? What does it feel like?
- How does Maysa try to stop the 'chaos' in the classroom?

### ACTIVITY 1: COMEDY CARDS

In Chapter 6, the author Zanib Mian creates a funny scenario that makes the reader laugh. Some of the ways that she achieves this are listed on the Comedy Cards below. See if you can match the Comedy Cards to different parts of the text in Chapter 6.

**Use of Capital Letters or  
Different Styles of Text**

**Exaggerated Reactions  
and Scenarios**



**Slapstick Humour or  
Physical Comedy**

**Repetition**

**Funny Words or Names**

**Illustrations**

**ACTIVITY 2: CREATE A COMEDY SCENE**

Using the example in Chapter 6, have a go at writing your own comedy scene. It can be based on something that happened in real life, or something that you've imagined. When you have finished, swap your scene with a partner. Use the Comedy Cards to see how many techniques have been used to create humour in your writing.



### 3: THE WHODUNNIT MYSTERY

As a class, read Chapter 9 of the book!

#### READING QUESTIONS:

- What does Maysa feel has 'come alive' inside her? Why?
- What is the lie that Maysa has told about her dad? How is this lie affecting her?
- Why is Norman the perfect person to help the twins solve the mystery of the cookie destroyer?
- What is a 'suspect'?
- Who do Maysa, Musa and Norman list as suspects?
- Which clues do the children have to help them? What was left at the crime scene?
- What is the importance of the shalwar kameez?

#### ACTIVITY 1: THE BEST COOKIE STRUCTURES KNOWN TO MANKIND

For the charity auction, Maysa chooses to design a 'walking unicorn cookie', while Musa chooses to design a 'simple Kabaa, Islam's most holy structure in Makkah.' What do these choices show about each of the twins? How are they different?

Re-read Chapter 7, when all the amazing cookies are lined up in the mosque (before the cookie destroyer ruins them!):

'There was one giant dinosaur, which was pretty good, but it was a flat cookie and not really a 'structure'. Slime-ah has made a flower. There were a couple of colourful houses and one mosque – a cube like Musa's Kaaba, but with a tube of sweets as the minaret. It wasn't technically all made from cookie pieces. There was also a lorry with a cracked windscreen that was falling apart at the front.'





**Come up with your own design for an amazing cookie structure. Label your design with its unique features. If you have time, you can even try to assemble your structure with real cookies!**

**DESIGN YOUR COOKIE HERE:**



## ACTIVITY 2: SUSPECTS AND MOTIVES

Imagine you are part of Maysa and Musa's twin detectives gang. Make it your mission to crack the case of the cookie culprit by reading closely and looking for clues.

First, re-read Chapter 9 and complete the Top Secret Detective File below.

### TOP SECRET DETECTIVE FILE

SUSPECTS	MOTIVES	EVIDENCE

Use your Detective File as inspiration for your own detective story. What would your mystery be, and who would be the suspects...?



# NOTES PAGE

