

Comprehension Workbook 6

# Qu'ran

(Learning the Qu'ran by heart)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

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# Qu'ran

(Learning the Qu'ran by heart)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create

# Muslim faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Muslim Faith, Mosque, Muslim art and writing and Muslim holy days books.)

## Contents

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# Learning the Qu'ran

The first word of the Qu'ran is "Recite" and reciting the Qu'ran is a very important part of Islam. Some people learn to recite the entire Qu'ran by heart. These people earn the title of "hafez", which means "memoriser of the Qu'ran".

There are special rules, called tajweed, for reciting the Qu'an. These rules teach the correct way to pronounce each word and the correct speed to use when reciting. There are also ten different styles of recitation. Each style has a slightly different way of pronouncing the words in the Qu'an and these styles are used to give different feelings to the words. For example, some styles are more quiet and others are more musical.

Hajjah Maria 'Ulfah is well-known Qu'an reciter from Indonesia. She has won recitation competitions and teaches others to recite the Qu'an. Hajjah Maria says that her students must learn to read Arabic before they can learn to recite the Qu'an. Then they use a special copy of the Qu'an that is divided into 30 parts of 20 pages each. Every day, her students memorise four pages of the Qu'an. Memorising four pages every day means that they can memorise the entire Qu'an in four years.

To help them memorise, Hajjah Maria's students walk up and down while repeating the pages. Then they sit, two students with each teacher, to correct their pronunciation and rhythm. Then students go to another class and learn the styles of recitation. In another class, students are taught the meaning of the Qur'an. Once they have memorised the entire Qur'an, the students earn the title of hafiz, meaning memoriser of the Qur'an. After graduation, Hajjah Maria's students go back to their villages to teach, become judges in Islamic courts, or do other important jobs.

Competitions are held all over the world for the best reciters. These competitions are usually held during the holiday of Ramadan. Children and adults take part and are judged on how well they follow the rules of recitation and the different styles of recitation.

In Indonesia, and some other countries, the top Qur'an reciters are celebrities and record CDs of their recitations. Hajjah Maria says that in Indonesia, boys and girls from schools and clubs compete in recitation contests that include parades, marching bands, decorations and judging by members of the local government.



# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

**a** Write a sentence in which you found the word 'recite'.

**b** From that sentence, write what you think 'recite' means.

**c** Write a new sentence using the word 'recite'.

**d** Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'recite'.

**e** Draw a picture showing someone who is 'reciting'.



# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: contest	competition

3

# Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

**1** Write a heading for your summary.

**2** Now write the main idea in one sentence.  
e.g. "This story tells us..."

**3** Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,  
can you rewrite your  
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is  
nothing wrong  
with rewriting; even  
the best authors  
rewrite their  
work.**

123  
4

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



Then they sit, two students with each teacher, to correct their pronunciation and rhythm.

Every day, her students memorise four pages of the Qur'an.

Children and adults take part and are judged on how well they follow the rules of recitation and the different styles of recitation.

Once they have memorised the entire Qur'an, the students earn the title of hafiz, meaning memoriser of the Qur'an.

There are special rules, called tajweed, for reciting the Qur'an.

She has won recitation competitions and teaches others to recite the Qur'an.



# Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) How many different styles are there for reciting the Qur'an?
- (b) What is the Arabic word for people who have memorised the entire Qur'an
- (c) What country is Hajjah Maria from?
- (d) About how long does it take Hajjah Maria's students to memorise the entire Qur'an?
- (e) When are most Qur'an recitation competitions held?



# Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 How are very good Qur'an reciters treated in

2 What are some things that Hajjah Maria's students study in learning the Qur'an?

3 In Qur'an competitions, what are Qur'an reciters judged on?

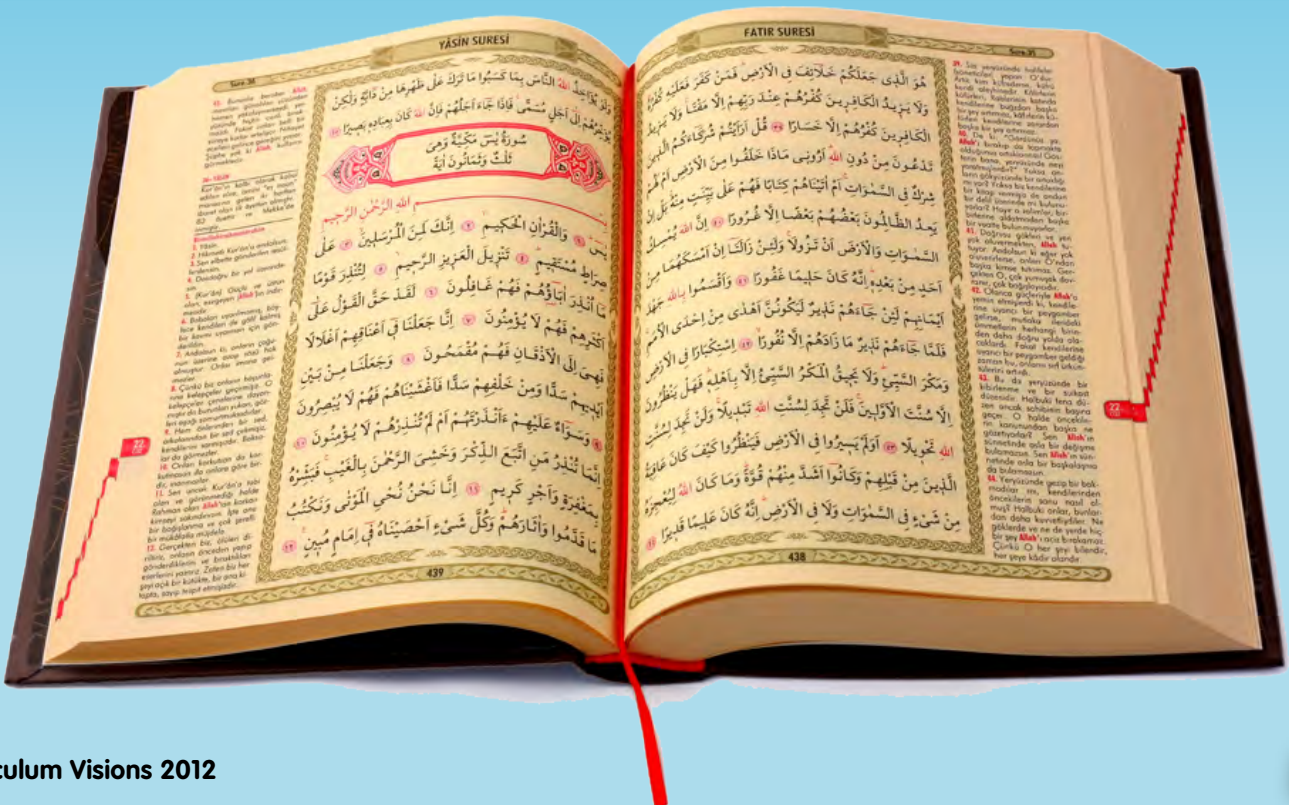
4 Why is a special version of the Qur'an used for memorisation?



# Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

- 1 Why is reciting the Qur'an important to Muslims?
- 2 How are people who have memorised the entire Qur'an treated?
- 3 Do you think four years is a long time to spend studying how to recite and memorise the Qur'an?
- 4 How do you go about memorising something important? What methods do you use to help you?
- 5 What do you think makes some people better than others at reciting the Qur'an?





# Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a topic.



## Discussion topic: Memorising the Qur'an

Discuss what Muslims might learn from memorising or learning to recite the Qur'an. Why is this skill important to Muslims?



# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



## Memorising

You need to memorise something important. In a few days, you will be tested to make sure you know it and can recite it with feeling.

(Now write a story telling what you need to memorise and why, and how you go about memorising the material. For example, do you learn a little bit each day, do you practise different ways of reciting, do you make sure you know the words exactly?...)

# Learning the Qur'an by heart

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