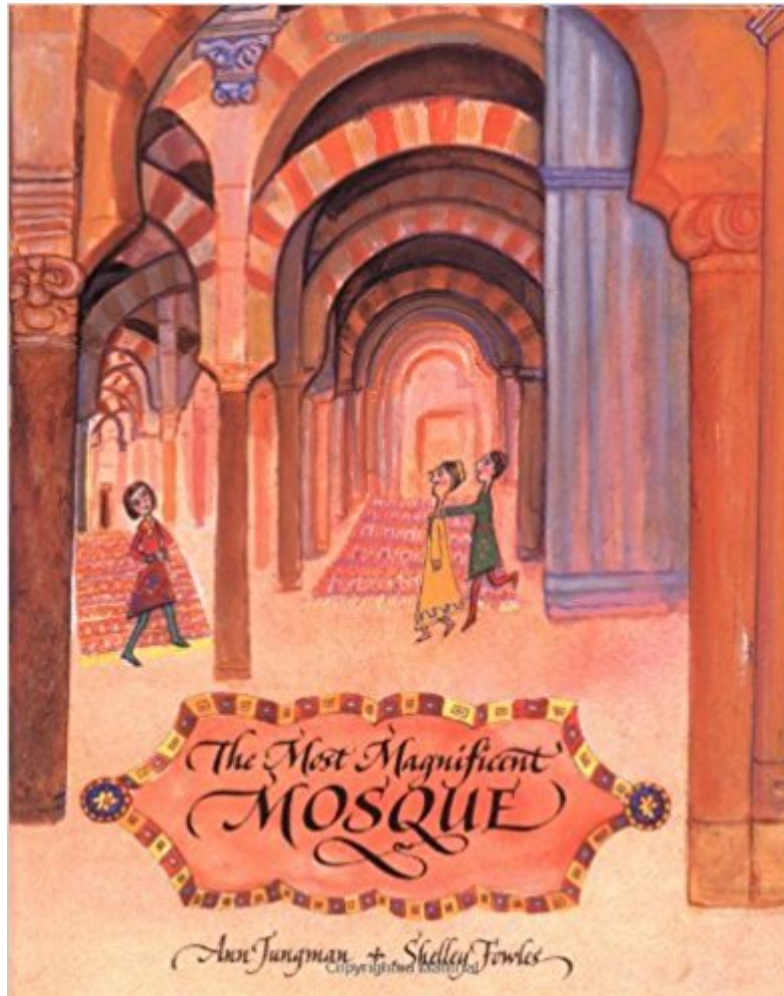




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The Most Magnificent Mosque



Synopsis

Visitors to the mosque at Cordoba are plagued by the tricks of three naughty boys: Muslim Rashid, Jewish Samuel, and Christian Miguel. As punishment, the boys are forced to work in the mosque gardens, where they develop a deep sense of the building's beauty and significance. Years later, when the Christian king threatens to demolish the Islamic mosque and build a church in its place, the three friends reunite to hatch a plan to save the great mosque. Ann Jungman's moving story and Shelley Fowles's captivating images show how cooperation and respect for others can lead to great things.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 1-4
An author's note provides some historical background for this story set in Spain. Three mischievous boys roughhouse in the gardens of Cordoba's Great Mosque and drop oranges on people's heads. When they are finally caught, the Caliph sentences them to work on the grounds for three months. After this experience, the boys come to appreciate the beauty of the building. Years later, when a Christian king threatens to tear down the mosque to build a church, the three friends—one a Christian, one a Jew, and one a Muslim—convince him that all three communities want the structure to remain. Since the town speaks with one voice, the king agrees and the mosque still stands today. Vibrant, colorful paintings depict the action and setting of

the story. The illustrations reveal the characters' feelings as they react to the unfolding events. This appealing story emphasizes the theme that when individuals work together, everyone wins. © Margaret R. Tassia, Millersville University, PA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Praise for Bachelor and the Bean: "Young children will enjoy the shimmering colors and swirling patterns, reminiscent of Jane Ray's artwork, that show the town bustle and the humor as sparks fly between the crabby, adoring couple."

Rashid (a Muslim), Samuel (a Jew), and Miguel (a Christian) love playing tricks in the gardens of Cordoba's Great Mosque. When the Caliph sentences the naughty boys to three months of gardening, they grow to love the cool beauty of the Mosque, and years later, when a Christian king wants to pull the building down, the three old friends decide something must be done on behalf of all the citizens of Cordoba, whether Muslim, Jew or Christian. This moving story and its captivating images show how cooperation and respect for others can lead to great things. Won an award from the Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC). Teachers/Librarians: very suitable for 2nd to 6th grades - social studies / humanities

Fantastic book - good story, great introduction to an aspect of history not as well known as it should be

Beautiful story and illustrations

Being non-religious I was very skeptical of such a book, and cautious about possibly recommending it for children. The very young don't know diddly squat about things religious other than what is stuffed in their impressionable heads by equally stuffed-headed/brain-washed adults. Nevertheless, some peoples of various religions--and versions thereof--have lived together in harmony throughout history, and this story is a reflection of tolerance and/or respect toward those of a different religious persuasion, which is to say that the book advocates for peaceful co-existence among the followers of various versions of a god. It would have been nice--more inclusive--if the author had included a fourth child: an atheist. So, we're not sure if these religious folk would tolerate a total non-believer. Regardless, it's a nice tale, though it still uncritically endorses religion as a sine qua non in culture. Thus, I can't give it a grade above a "C".

As a travel writer of travel guides for children, I'm always looking for books that help bring a country and culture to life for kids. This one is a marvelous example which I recommend before a trip to southern Spain with kids. With so much unrest in the world regarding religions, it is important to note that in Spain, before the Spanish Inquisition, peoples of many religions lived happily together. Understanding how religion played an important role in the history of Spain helps children (and parents) appreciate a trip there all the more. This book is about 3 boys, each of a different religion, and how they work together for a common goal. Excellent choice for a home or school library, but most especially before a trip to Spain with kids!

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