

① ANSWER QUESTIONS  
Name ② Define Vocabulary words (in bold print) Period \_\_\_\_\_  
③ Illustrate the story with 5 part comic strip. (use caption)

## The spirit of Ramadan: Reading Guide

Directions: Using the "I Can Read Anywhere" handout, please analyze the text below. You will fill in the responses in the section to your right. After reading the story, you will create a 5 part Comic Strip of your story.

Asad opened the refrigerator door and peered inside. His eyes fell on a huge chocolate cake and some sandwiches, the leftovers from yesterday's tea.

"Oh God! Why am I being punished like this?" He groaned silently.

It was the first day of Ramadan and Asad was fasting. He had just returned from school and was feeling **ravenous**. After dropping his heavy backpack on the bedroom floor, he made a beeline for his favorite spot in the house, the kitchen. But fasting meant no food for at least four more hours. He would have to wait till sunset to break the first fast of the month.

Just for a second, Asad felt **sorely** tempted.

"Who would know if I eat a slice of the cake?" he mused. His parents weren't home, his grandparents were resting and his baby sister, Fatima was too young to tell tales.

"Somebody would know, "a little voice argued inside his heart."He, who knows everything, since He is our Creator."

He flopped down on the sofa in disgust and switched on the television.

"Maybe a nice program will take my mind off food for a while," he thought, aggressively pressing down the channel buttons on the remote control.

Asad thought with a guilty pang about the uneaten pizza he had thrown away in a fit of temper last night. He had ordered his favorite Chicken Supreme but the delivery boy had brought some other pizza and would not take it back. Asad had paid for it and just to show the **impertinent** delivery guy what he thought of his services, had tossed the pizza into the trash can outside his house. It had felt so good at that time but now he felt like a total jerk.

He remembered how his grandmother always **chided** him when he left rice uneaten on his plate that was later scrapped off by the servant and dumped in trashcan. He remembered the **lavish** meals he and his friends ordered in college canteen and then discarded because they could not eat a bite more. If excess, extravagance and waste were crimes, then he was guilty of each one of them.

What do you suspect Asad is being punished for?

ACT® buzzword: **Ravenous**

What was Asad tempted by? How would this be a threat to his religious practices?

If you were Asad? Would you eat the Cake? Why or why not?

What does Asad's behavior with the Pizza says about his character as an individual?

ACT® buzzword: **Chided**

"What is wrong with me today?" He thought uneasily. "It must be the lack of food that is making me so restless." He glanced at the stately golden clock adorning the living room wall. Only twenty minutes had passed and he still had more than three and a half hours to kill.

"I'll go to Bilal's house." He decided, thinking about his friend's house across the street. "Maybe a few rounds of computer games will improve my mood. Shortly afterwards, Asad returned home for an evening meal after fasting.

As the entire family gathered for breaking the fast, Asad looked at the dining table laden with a variety of food –sandwiches, cake, fruit cocktail, tempura, triangular samosay, fried chicken pieces, dates and a variety of other dishes.

"Mom, do we need to cook so much food for one meal that no one can possibly finish?"

"What's on your mind, son?" his father asked, surprised by his son's unusual question.

"Dad, Mom's on a diet, grandparents can't eat fried and salty food as doctor's orders and Fatima can't eat solid food. That leaves you and me to finish at least eight dishes. It's pure waste."

"Asad, what is wrong, son?" His mother asked concerned about her son's state of mind.

"Mom there are people out there dying of hunger. There are people who have a handful of dried dates to eat and yet work all day on rich people's mansions and then thank God for His blessings." "Yes, but maybe this Ramadan we can share our food with those whose needs are greater than ours, father. May I?" Asad asked with a tilt of his head towards the food.

"Thank you for teaching me the true spirit of Ramadan, Dad . It is not about mindlessly abstaining from food and drink all day but understanding the needs of others and pleasing Allah to gain His blessings that Ramadan is all about. Sharing and caring, that's the true spirit of this holy month."

What does the author means when says that the narrator had "more than three and a half hours to kill?" \_\_\_\_\_

What are some possibilities that might have changed Asad's views on Ramadan when he came home for dinner? Are you surprised by his change of heart? \_\_\_\_\_

In this paragraph, Asad rants to his pare about the importance of "Ramadan". Why might it be hard for the reader to believe that Asad has truthfully changed his views on Ramadan? \_\_\_\_\_

Based On a scale of 1-10, how would you rank Asad's relationship with Allah? \_\_\_\_\_


