مدارج

Where Did the Page's Voice Go?

Picture story • Ages 3–5 • B22

Five-year-old Mariam chose a story about a yellow boat. The family sat down to read: Mariam, her dad, her mum—Dad’s wife—and her baby brother. As Dad opened the first page, the television called, his phone rang, and Mariam’s toy announced, “Let’s play!” Mariam looked up. “I can’t hear the boat.”

Dad smiled. “The boat is a picture, so it has no voice. But we have to listen to hear what the page tells us.” Mariam tried again, then asked, “Where did the page’s voice go?”

“Let’s find what is competing with it,” Mum said. Dad turned off the unwatched television. Mariam quieted her toy. Dad silenced non-urgent phone sounds while keeping important calls available.

Then Mariam’s little brother cried. “Should we turn his sound off too?” she asked. “No,” Mum said. “He needs us. We can mark our page and come back.” Mariam placed the red bookmark.

When her brother was settled, Mariam carried the story and a cushion to the window corner. “The television won’t interrupt us here, the toy is asleep, and we can still hear my brother.”

Dad opened the book at the red mark. The words moved slowly: a yellow boat, a blue wave, a faraway harbour. “The page’s voice wasn’t hiding,” Mariam said. “There were too many sounds around it.”

Save the place, quiet what we can, then return

Question: Which sound can we quiet, and which sound tells us about a real need?

Activity: Read one page in two places. Choose one small change: turn off what is unused, quiet a toy, or move to a calmer corner.

For the grown-up: Do not demand perfect silence or blame a child who needs movement or a pause. A bookmark can protect the return.

Original fiction inspired by “Reclaim Your Attention,” pages 8, 10 and 16. It contains no direct Qur’an or hadith quotation.