Ms. Marvel Vol. 1

AUTHOR: G. Willow Wilson
PUBLISHER: Marvel
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GENRE: Graphic Novel, Fantasy
SETTING: The setting is Jersey City, New Jersey during modern times.

SUMMARY:
Kamala Khan is a girl from Jersey City, New Jersey with extraordinary talents. Is Kamala the new Ms. Marvel, a teenager, or a Muslim? Kamala finds the dangers of her powers, as well as a secret behind her powers.

BOOK TALK:
Kamala Khan, a Muslim Pakistani-American teen with an obsession with the Avengers, works to connect the Muslim world of her family with the Jersey City kids she attends school with. Find out how Kamala acquires super powers and becomes a bold, fearless, hero by reading Ms. Marvel!

BOOK TRAILER:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Gs357uNpOA from Marvel Entertainment

AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

AUTHOR’S NAME: G. Willow Wilson
Author’s Website: http://gwillowwilson.com

Other books written by the author:
Fiction - Alif the Unseen (Grove Press, 2012)
Nonfiction - The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman's Journey to Love and Islam (Grove/Atlantic, 2010)

Comics and Graphic Novels
Cairo (Vertigo Comics, 2008)
Air series (Vertigo Comics, 2009-2010)
Air Vol. 1 Letters from Lost Countries
Air Vol 2 Flying Machine
Air Vol.3 Pureland
Air Vol.4 A History of the Future
Vixen: Return of the Lion (DC Comics, 2010)
Mystic: The Tenth Apprentice (Marvel Comics, 2011)
Ms. Marvel Vol. 2 Generation Why (Marvel Comics, 2015)
Other information:

Gwendolyn Willow Wilson (G. Willow Wilson) began her writing career at age 17. She was a music and DJ critic for Boston’s Weekly Dig magazine. Willow lived and worked as a journalist in Egypt during her early and mid-twenties. She has won the Hugo Award for Best Graphic Story.

**SIMILAR BOOKS/BOOKS WITH A SIMILAR THEME:**
*Princeless* by Jeremy Whitley and M. Goodwin  
*Bandette* by Paul Tobin and Colleen Coover  
*The Shadow Hero* by Gene Luen Yang and Sonny Liew

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**
1. The title of book 1 in the Ms. Marvel series is *No Normal*. Why do you think the writer chose this title? Provide evidence from the book to support your answer.

2. What are Kamala’s goals and dreams? How do her goals and dreams change over time?

3. Kamala has to balance being a Muslim Pakistani teen and a Jersey City teen. Are her struggles unique to culturally diverse teens? Or are her struggles like those of most American teens?

4. You’ve heard the advice “Be careful what you wish for…” Does this apply to Kamala? If so, how?

5. There are scenes in the book when Kamala disobeys her parents and sneaks out. Was this a wise decision? What are the pros and cons of her actions? Support your answer with details from the story.

6. Why is it difficult for a multitude of “different” people to fit in? What can your class, school, and community do to help those who are different from us feel welcomed?

7. How can cultural values mold who and what we are?

**ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:**

**Social Studies**

- **Compare and Contrast World Religions**  
  Are any of these religions and practices familiar: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam?  
  Have students use a journal or K-W-L chart to indicate what they know about these religions.
Or have students research the 5 major religions. This could be done in groups and presented to the class. Have students fill in the K-W-L chart as the information is presented.  


Include the following information:
Origins of the faith - When and where was it founded? Is there an identifiable founder?
Is this religion monotheistic, polytheistic or nontheistic; name of god(s)
Location of the majority of the faith’s followers
Major beliefs (meaning of life, afterlife) and values

Optional: Variations among followers of each religion
Sacred or holy texts/books
Optional: other key figures or individuals
Practices and traditions
Key holidays/holy days/religious observances

After the presentations, discuss:
What is unique about each religion? (relative to others in the list)
What is similar about each religion? (relative to others in the list)
What is one interesting detail that you learned? Why do you find it interesting?
What is one question you still have about the religion you researched?
Select one religion: How has this belief system influenced or impacted another religion or culture?
What could influence the spread of a belief system? How does the development of new technologies impact this spread?
How does religion affect the world today?
What major conflicts have been influenced or caused by religion?
How has religion played a role in our culture or life?

Websites:

http://www.darke.k12.oh.us/curriculum/SocialStudies/WorldReligions.pdf


http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions

http://www.uri.org/kids/world.htm

http://www.religionfacts.com

http://www.religioustolerance.org
Extensions:
Research a major conflict that has been influenced or caused by religion. What are the differences in belief that have led to the conflict? What is being done to mediate the situation? How successful/unsucessful has the mediation been? Why? Are there other solutions to the conflict? What are they?

Social Studies 7.1.16 Analyze cause-and-effect relationships, bearing in mind multiple causation in the role of individuals, beliefs and chance in history.)

- Research in depth one of the many holidays that the religions you have studied celebrate. Create an invitation to the holiday. The invitation should include the following information: name of holiday being celebrated, reason for celebration, place of celebration, date of celebration and proper attire to be worn, traditional foods or activities associated with the holiday. Especially important is that students understand the meaning and reason for the holiday. Invitation should also contain 2-3 icons or symbols relative to selected religion.


Social Studies

- Religious Tolerance
The United States has not always had a history of religious tolerance. Start by reading America's True History of Religious Tolerance. Research an incident or time period of religious intolerance in our history.

Social Studies: Chronological Thinking, Historical Comprehension, Analysis and Interpretation, Research, and Issues-Analysis and Decision-Making
8.1.28 Recognize historical perspective and evaluate alternative courses of action by describing the historical context in which events unfolded.

8.1.29 Differentiate between facts and historical interpretations of events, recognizing that the historian’s narrative reflects his or her judgment about the significance of particular facts.

8.1.30 Using primary and secondary sources, analyze an issue confronting the United States from colonial times through the Reconstruction period.
Language Arts

- **Heritage Research**
  Research your heritage. Discuss the similarities and differences of your heritage country’s customs/religious beliefs versus mainstream American customs/religious beliefs. How were your ancestors (as a whole) treated when they immigrated to the United States?

  **Language Arts: Writing Genres - Argumentative, Informative, and Narrative**
  7.W.3.2 Write informative compositions in a variety of forms that – Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition and classification; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

  **The Research Process: Finding, Assessing, Synthesizing, and Reporting Information**
  7.W.5 Conduct short research assignments and tasks to build knowledge about the research process and the topic under study.

**RELATED INTERNET SITES:**

Superlessons: Lesson Plans for the Superhero High School Teacher  
https://superlessons.wordpress.com/tag/ms-marvel/

Using Graphic Novels in Education: Ms. Marvel  
http://cbldf.org/2015/04/using-graphic-novels-in-education-ms-marvel  includes an overview, summary, teaching and discussion suggestions, and more.

**CHALLENGING WORDS:** (Pages are not numbered in the book.)

Urdu Dictionary  
http://www.urduword.com
Chapter 1
infidel
epic
Ammi (Urdu)
Abu (Urdu)
usury
contemplating
pakora
heathen
Urdu
totes
fetish
Karachi
Terrigen Bomb ([http://marvel.wikia.com/wiki/Terrigen_Bomb](http://marvel.wikia.com/wiki/Terrigen_Bomb))

Chapter 2
Quran (al-Qur'an; Koran)
projection
jaanu
mullah

Chapter 3
polymorph
Shaytan (or Shaitan)
chastity
partition
modesty
biokinetic
polymer
Carol Danvers redux
Freudian
degenerate

Chapter 4
subpoena burkini
beta (Urdu)
surveillance

Chapter 5
indie
heist