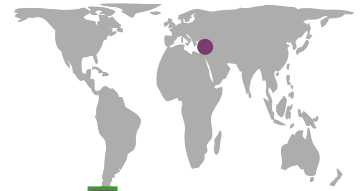


hello

IRAQ

How do you say hello in Arabic?



marhaba

(Say MAR-ha-bah)



My name is Shams.

Age: 8

Lives in: Kurdistan Region, Iraq

I am from the city of Fallujah but because of fighting my family moved here. (MCC helped her family move into an apartment. Before, they lived in a tent in a building that was under construction and had no walls but only concrete floors, ceilings and pillars.)

I live with my mother, a sister and two brothers. I like cooking, especially making dough for pizza and cutting vegetables for salad.

I take a bus to a school for children who have come here from other places. We have classes for boys and classes for girls. There are 30 girls in my grade three class.

My 5-year-old brother and I like to build houses out of blocks. We also make houses out of sheets and the pillows. He has his house and I have my house and we visit each other. Sometimes I bring a glass of water but I pretend that it's tea. Sometimes I dress up in my mother's clothes and head scarf.

I want to build houses someday. The house I build should be beautiful. I would put a library in my house, a bed, a beautiful kitchen and toys. It would be full of toys.

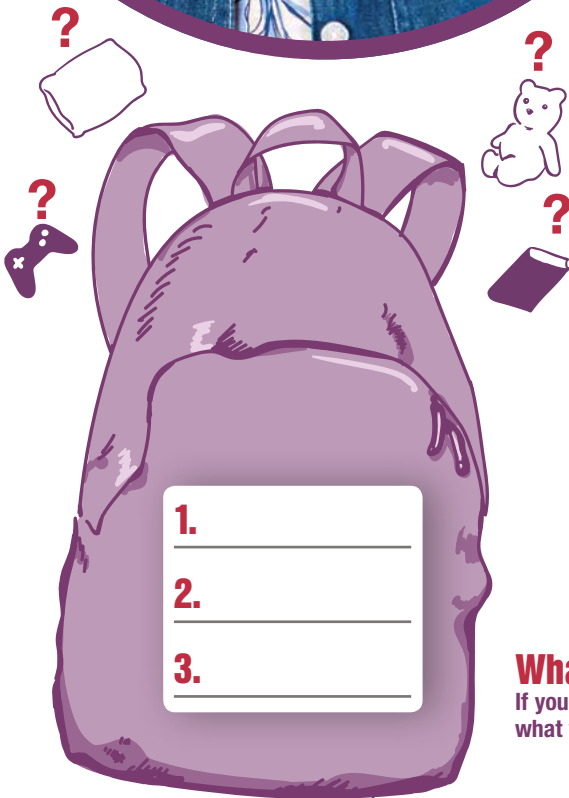
My favorite food: pizza

My favorite subject: English

What I want to be: engineer

What would you take?

If you and your family had to leave home with only what you could carry, what would you take?



Someday Shams (her name means "Sun" in Arabic) wants to be an engineer and build houses.

