1.

SubhanAllah, Nora

2.

SubhanAllah, Nora! When Allah gave you to us, He answered our every dua.

You were a special edition – the only one, the only you! You were perfected by our Creator.

3.

We loved the way your eyes twinkled like stars in a clear night’s sky and how your smile lit up the room even before the sunrise.

Your nose, which Allah placed in the center of your round face with such care, was as tiny as can be.

4.

Daddy whispered the adhan in your ear. They were the very first words you would ever hear.

Alhamdulillah!

5.

Nora, on the day of your aqiqah, we celebrated your birth.

6.

We served goat dishes to all our guests. Goat stew, goat kabobs, and goat biryani too.

Some for us, some for our loved ones, and some for those in need.

7.

SubhanAllah, Nora. You are loved by your family and friends. They showered you with bright toys, shiny shoes and clothes that make you look spiffy and sharp. They showered you with so many presents.

We said, “Jazak Allahu khayran for your kindness. And we thank Allah, who gave us Nora, the best gift of all."

8.

Then we sweetened our mouth with dates. We said “Bismillah. These dates are just as sweet as our little Nora.”

9.

“What does Nora mean?” they asked.

10.

“Nora means light,” we said with pride. “We pray that our Nora will always be guided by Allah’s light.”

11.

And they made dua. “Oh Allah, may Nora grow up learning from all the great Prophets and wise women of Islam. Ameen.” (for girls)

13.

“Oh Allah, may Ihsan grow up learning from all the great prophets of Islam. Ameen.” (for boys)

14.

SubhanAllah, Nora. How we love your silly ways! Dressing up in mommy’s clothes during playtime. Sneezing with your mouth full of food. “Alhamdulillah,” we say.

15.

You are so brave when you try to learn something new. You stumble and fall, but you get up and try again, over and over and over.

“Mashallah! Courage is to keep trying,” we say.

16.

SubhanAllah, Nora. As you grow older and bolder, you test our patience with all kinds of mischief.

Bang! Smash! Clank! There goes the flowerpot. Peek-a-boo and poof—where have you gone?

17.

But when you smile, our hearts are ever so mellow . . . because Allah made you the coolness of our eyes.

18.

You make us proud when you take one of mommy’s hijabs and join us in prayer. You follow along with us, and you bow to make sujud too.

We say “Mashallah, Nora. Always remember Allah in everything you do.”

19.

SubhanAllah, Nora. You see so many things.

For Jummah, we take you to the masjid. You marvel at the beauty of the letters, colors, and shapes around you.

20.

We visit the the zoo. You say salaam to the lions. You say salaam to the elephants, the flamingos, and the slow-moving sloth.

*How many different animals did Allah put on this earth?* You wonder.

21.

SubhanAllah, Nora. You go on many adventures. You see the crashing waves of the ocean and the mountains stretching up into the clouds.

*How much water does an ocean hold? How many hops to get to the top of the mountain?* You wonder and wonder some more.

22.

You peer closely at the ladybugs walking on blades of grass and wonder, *Do they see the world the way you and I see it?*

“Only Allah knows. He is greater than everything we can see,” we say.

23.

And best of all, we see the world’s beauty through your eyes.

24.

We say “SubhanAllah, Allah has given us so much love and so many wonders.”

He made us all . . .

25.

and He made you—our precious Nora.