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Who am I?

Words, symbols, and pictures are a great way of expressing oneself as well as describing. Similarly, dress can say a lot about a person like their *culture*. I used words and symbols that I feel embody who I am as a person. I will start with the words I chose to describe myself. Modest represents a part of my religion and how I dress in public. Part of this modesty is wearing the headscarf (hijab). In my life dressing modestly serves as *protection* spiritually and physically. Overthinker is how I am on a daily basis, wondering what people's *social perception* of me is. Friendly is how I like to be perceived as and hope to make good friends as I grow. Honest and reliability are my top qualities. It is very fulfilling to know people trust me to help them or be there for them. I wish for people to be the same with me, so I give that to others as well. Foodie and cook signify two things in my experience. The first is a *stereotype* and the second is my love for food. The *stereotype* is that my *body image* to others is seen as big, overweight, unhealthy, careless, and fat. This never stops me from enjoying food that I cook or others. I love to explore flavors, new foods, and food culture. The "Hi" and in other languages on the back of the shirt symbolize my 5-language goal in life. I wish to learn Spanish, Arabic, Bangla, Korean and further improve my English. By putting "hi" and a few languages on the shirt, I hope that it *communicates* that I am familiar with those languages. Lastly, within the words, I will explain the meaning of woman, daughter, sister, and aunty. At first glance one may *categorize* me as a woman, and they would be right. In addition to woman, I am someone's beloved daughter, the youngest sister to my siblings, and aunt to my niece and nephews. They are all people I love dearly.

I will move on to the symbols and pictures I chose to describe who I am. I want to begin with the crescent moon and star which represents Islam. Modesty goes hand in hand with this and is the reason I wear the *hijab*. This often causes *categorization* and *stereotypes* to take place. The stack of books means 2 things for me. The first is my love for reading books, often fiction but I am open to any genre. The second is my new desire to write my own book about my time in life. I felt that I have learned things some have a hard time admitting or realizing. Therefore, I wish to tell a story about my experiences and possibly help others get through life. Stars are meant to depict how my co-workers see me. After working at Madewell for half a year. My coworkers gave me the nickname or title of a star due to my work ethic. The headphones are meant to *communicate* my love for music. This brings me to the 2 purple symbols to the right of the headphones. The top part is a logo for my favorite band since 2015, called BTS and the bottom part is the logo for the BTS fan base, called ARMY. The recycling sign signifies my journey to living a zero-waste lifestyle. The flying airplane symbolizes my desire to break a *stereotype*. Being a minority such as a brown Muslim woman is often seen as housewives, stay-at-home moms, or dependent on men. I wish to change that and be an independent woman that can travel the world with nothing holding me down. Badminton happens to be my favorite sport since middle school and still play when I have the chance. The Zs in the corner of the shirt represents my insomnia, which I find very ironic because I love and value my sleep. The smiling

dumpling connects to my *body image*. Since my face is on the round and chubby side my best friend, whom I hold very close to my heart calls me dumpling. The semicolon in general can symbolize the choice a person makes in life to keep going. This is emotional for those that fight suicidal thoughts, self-harm, and depression. At a young age, I fought with a few of these and chose to live life and flourish rather than giving in. I also always wished to *adorn* myself with a tattoo of the semicolon to remind me of that. Lastly, I put the American flag and Bangladesh flag as a representation of my mixed *culture*. Being born and raised in New York makes me an outsider in Bengali culture. Being raised with Bengali culture makes me an outsider to American culture. I am proud to say that I take pride in who I am, and I am still growing to be a better person in society.

