

Abdullah – Piece of the puzzle: 'Education'

His mother has noticed that he is quieter at home than he used to be. She thinks that he is struggling with the loss of his father and of his dream of playing professional football, so she gives him the space he needs to seek comfort and support from his new friends. It bothers her that he says he can't sleep 'because of Syria'. She's starting to be concerned, but thinks it's just a phase he's going through. She asks a Dutch-Moroccan gym teacher at school to talk to her son, but Abdullah refuses to meet with him, saying the man is not a good Muslim.

In class discussions, Abdullah expresses himself very strongly on topics related to religion. He thinks that people in the West are hypocrites and wonders out loud why people are not allowed to visit the Islamic State. More than once he causes a scene when he aggressively confronts other pupils about the way they practise their religion. During one such discussion he uses the smartboard to show photos of Dutch people who are helping to build the Islamic State. When two brothers from Delft die in Syria, he praises them for shouldering their responsibility and is supported by a number of Muslim girls in the class.