

Arab & Arab American Creators

Picture Books

Addasi, Maha. *Time to Pray*. When young Yasmin goes for a visit, her grandmother teaches her a Muslim's daily prayers, makes special prayer clothes, and gives a gift that will help Yasmin remember when to pray. Includes facts about prayer customs. *Arab American Book Award Honor

Alalou, Elizabeth and Ali Alalou. *The Butter Man*. While Nora waits for the couscous her father is cooking to be finished, he tells her a story about his youth in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco.

Camper, Cathy. *Ten Ways to Hear Snow*. Walking to her grandmother's home to help make a family favorite recipe for warak enab, Lina discovers many ways to hear snow, from the scrape of a shovel on a sidewalk to the quiet pats of snowman-building.

Charara, Hayan. *The Three Lucys*. A young Lebanese boy must learn to cope with loss and hope for a peaceful future after losing one of his beloved cats because of The July War. *Arab American Book Award Honor

Faruqi, Reem. *Lailah's Lunchbox*. After moving to the United States from Abu Dhabi, Lailah navigates fasting for Ramadan at her new school with the help from the school librarian.

Gilani-Williams, Fawzia. *Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam*. Yaffa and Fatima live on neighboring date farms. When very little rain leads to a poor harvest, both women go to extra measures to make sure that their neighbor doesn't go hungry.

Kaadan, Nadine. *The Jasmine Sneeze*. Haroun, the cat, likes nothing better than to spend his days sleeping in the sunlit courtyards of Damascus. But one thing always ruins his sleep: jasmine! Haroun can't stand the sweet-scented flowers. Their pollen sends him into fits of sneezes!

Kaadan, Nadine. *Tomorrow*. An uplifting story about a courageous little boy from Syria growing up in a time of conflict, and the strength of family love.

Khalil, Aya. *The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story*. When Kanzi's teacher engages the class in a project to make a quilt out of every student's name written in Arabic, Kanzi feels a sense of pride in her culture.

Latham, Irene & Karim Shamsi-Basha. *The Cat Man of Aleppo*. When war came to Syria, many fled Aleppo and were forced to become refugees in faraway places, but Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel, an ambulance driver, stayed behind to care for his neighbors in need, which included abandoned cats.

Lumbard, Rabiah York. *The Gift of Ramadan*. Sophia wants to fast for Ramadan this year. Her grandma tells her that fasting helps make a person sparkly—and Sophia loves sparkles. But when her attempt at fasting fails, Sophia must find another way to participate.

Marston, Elsa. *The Olive Tree*. Sameer's neighbors left when war came to Lebanon, but now they have returned and instead of finding a friend to play with, Sameer meets an unfriendly girl, Muna, who confronts him about taking olives that fall from her family's tree to his side of the wall.

Muhmmad, Ibtihaj. *The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family*. Mama takes Asiyah and Faizah to the hijab shop so that Asiyah can pick out her "first-day hijab." Faizah has a new backpack and light-up shoes for the first day of school, but when Asiyah walks out in her blue hijab, "It's the most beautiful first day of school ever."

Najjār, Taghrīd 'Ārif. *My Brother and Me*. Youngest child Aloush adores his older brother, Ramez, who has lately been preoccupied. After Ramez announces that he's engaged to marry a woman named Deema, Aloush feels lonely and neglected.

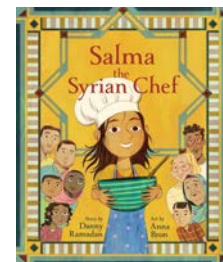
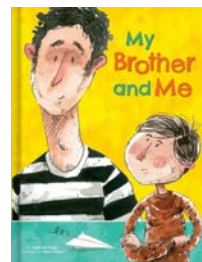


Najjār, Taghrīd 'Ārif. *The Ghoul*. Brave Hassan embarks on a dangerous mission to face the long-feared Ghoul. When Hassan finally meets the Ghoul, he discovers that the Ghoul is just as terrified of people as they are of him and they both realize that they can still be friends, despite their differences.

Ramadan, Ahmad Danny. *Salma the Syrian Chef*. Between English classes, job interviews, and missing Papa back in Syria, Mama always seems busy or sad. All Salma wants is to make her mama smile again. Maybe a homemade Syrian meal will cheer her up!

Ruurs, Margriet & Badr, Nizar Ali. *Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey*. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her family set out to walk from their Syrian home to freedom in Europe.

Yuksel, M.O. & Aly, Hatem. *In My Mosque*. Step in and discover all the rituals and wonder of the mosque. No matter who you are or where you're from, everyone is welcome here.



continued on back

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For Older Kids

Abu-Jaber, Diana. *Silverworld*. Sitti, Sami's Lebanese grandmother, has been ill for a while, slipping from reality and speaking in a language only Sami can understand. Her family thinks Sitti belongs in a nursing home, but Sami doesn't believe she's sick at all. Desperate to help, Sami casts a spell from her grandmother's mysterious charm book and falls through an ancient mirror into a world unlike any other. Welcome to the enchanted city of Silverworld.

Al-Mansour, Haifaa. *The Green Bicycle* (Tween). Spunky eleven-year-old Wajda lives in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with her parents. She desperately wants a bicycle so that she can race her friend Abdullah, even though it is considered improper for girls to ride bikes. Wajda earns money for her dream bike by selling homemade bracelets and mixtapes of banned music to her classmates. But after she's caught, she's forced to turn over a new leaf (sort of), or risk expulsion from school. Still, Wajda keeps scheming, and with the bicycle so closely in her sights, she will stop at nothing to get what she wants.

Chalfoun, Michelle. *The Treasure of Maria Mamoun*. Lebanese-American Maria's mother transplants the two of them from the South Bronx to Martha's Vineyard. While Maria's nurse mother cares for a rich, elderly film director, Maria joins forces with a local boy to sail and search for pirate treasure. *Arab American Book Award Winner

Darraj, Susan Muaddi. *Farah Rocks Fifth Grade* (series). Fifth-grader Farah Hajjar and her best friend Allie Liu are hoping to go to the Magnet Academy for their middle school years, but when a new girl starts tormenting Farah and her younger brother, Samir, she decides she can not leave Samir to face the bully alone. The adults and even Allie do not seem to be taking the matter seriously, so Farah comes up with a plan, one which involves lying to those closest to her.

Daud, Somaiya. *Mirage*. Set in a Moroccan proxy world, Amani is abducted from her small village and finds that her survival depends on being the perfect body double to an arrogant and cruel princess. *Arab American Book Award Honor

Dennis, Yvonne Wakim. *A Kid's Guide to Arab American History: More Than 50 Activities* (973.049 DEN). A contemporary and historical look at Arab American people and experiences that have shaped Arab American culture, with fun activities that highlight distinct arts, games, clothing, and food.

Hussain, Saimi. *The Arab World Thought of It: Inventions, Innovations, and Amazing Facts* (953 HUS) Explore some of the inventions and innovations that were developed in the Arab world, including the astrolabe, stitches, hummus, and soap bars. *Arab American Book Award Honor

Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed. *When Stars are Scattered* (Graphic novel). Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother.

Nuurali, Siman. *Sadiq and the Desert Star* (series). Sadiq's father is going on a business trip, but before he goes he tells Sadiq a story of the Desert Star, which fits in perfectly with Sadiq's third grade class field trip to the planetarium, and inspires Sadiq to build a simple telescope to study the stars when his father returns.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *The Turtle of Oman: A Novel*. Aref, a boy from Oman, has serious misgivings about temporarily moving from his homeland to Michigan. As he avoids packing his suitcase, Aref savors the familiar sights, sounds and scents of his hometown, Muscat.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Cast Away: Poems for Our Time* (811 NYE). Young People's Poet Laureate Naomi Shihab Nye shines a spotlight on the things we cast away, from plastic water bottles to those less fortunate.

Roy, Jennifer Rozines and Ali Fadhil. *Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein: Based on a Real Life Story*. For forty-two days in 1991, eleven-year-old Ali Fadhil and his family struggle to survive as Basra, Iraq, is bombed by the United States and its allies.

Saeed, Jamal. *Yara's Spring*. Growing up in Aleppo, Yara's childhood has long been shadowed by the coming revolution. Yara is pushed to her limits as she discovers how far she'll go for her loved ones—and for a chance for freedom.

Warga, Jasmine. *Other Words for Home*. When military fighting comes dangerously near their hometown, Jude and her mother leave Syria and their family to come to the United States, where they adjust to a new culture and a new life. *Arab American Book Award Winner

Middle School & Up

Barakat, Ibtisam. *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood* (Teen B BAR). What it is like to be a child whose world is shattered by war? Barakat stitches together memories of her childhood: fear and confusion as bombs explode near her home and she is separated from her family; the harshness of life as a Palestinian refugee; her unexpected joy when she discovers writing. *Arab American Book Award Winner

Barakat, Ibtisam. *Balcony on the Moon: Coming of Age in Palestine* (Teen 956.952 BAR). The follow-up to *Tasting the Sky*, this is a touching memoir about pursuing dreams in the face of much adversity and political turmoil in the Middle East and finding inspiration through writing letters to pen pals. *Arab American Book Award Honor.

Findakly, Brigitte. *Poppies of Iraq* (Adult Graphic Novels, B FINDAKLY). Findakly's chronicle of her relationship with her homeland Iraq, including her middle class childhood, cultural practices, the education system, Saddam Hussein's state control, and her family's history as Orthodox Christians in the Arab world.

Gharib, Malaka. *I Was Their American Dream: A Graphic Memoir* (Adult Graphic Novels, B GHARIB). The daughter of parents with unfulfilled dreams themselves, Malaka navigated her childhood chasing her parents' ideals, learning to code-switch between her family's Filipino and Egyptian customs, adapting to white culture to fit in, crushing on skater boys, and trying to understand the tension between holding onto cultural values and trying to be an all-American kid. *Arab American Book Award Winner

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners* (Teen, 811 NYE). A celebration of the inspirational people who strengthen and motivate us to create, to open our hearts, and to live rewarding and graceful lives. Includes short informational bios about the influential figures behind each poem.

Warga, Jasmine. *Here We are Now* (Teen Fiction). While her mother is out of town, sixteen-year-old Taliah accompanies her estranged father—a famous rock star who one day appears on her doorstep—to Oak Falls, Indiana, to meet his dying father and the rest of his family, and on the way, Taliah learns about how her parents met and separated, her mother's experience as a Jordanian immigrant, and her own ability to accept change and open up to others.

Find more information about the Arab American National Museum's Book Award at arabamericanmuseum.org/bookaward