

# Arab & Arab American Creators

## Picture Books

Alaoui, Amina Hachimi. *Alya and the Three Cats*. Myriam's belly is becoming rounder and rounder, like a balloon! Minouche, Pasha, and Amir, her three cats, are worried. How will their lives change with the arrival of baby Alya?

AlHathloul, Lina. *Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers*. Loujain watches her beloved baba attach his feather wings and fly each morning, but her own dreams of flying face a big obstacle: only boys, not girls, are allowed to fly in her country. Yet despite the taunts of her classmates, she is determined to do it—especially because Loujain loves colors, and only by flying can she see the color-filled field of sunflowers her baba has told her about. Eventually, he agrees to teach her, and Loujain's impossible dream becomes reality—and soon other girls dare to learn to fly.

Aziz, Susannah. *Halal Hot Dogs*. Every Friday, Musa's family takes turns picking out a Jumma treat to try different foods, but when it is Musa's turn, he sticks to his favorite halal hot dogs to share.

Camper, Cathy. *Arab Arab All Year Long!* Yallah! From January to December, join some busy kids as they partake in traditions old and new. There's so much to do, whether it's learning to write Arabic or looking at hijab fashion sites while planning costumes for a local comic convention. Also by Cathy Camper: *Ten Ways to Hear Snow*.

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

Ebeid, Rifk. *Baba, What Does My Name Mean?: A Journey to Palestine*. When Saamidah, a young Palestinian refugee, is asked by her friends what her name means, she isn't quite sure what to say. She turns to her baba for some answers - but what she gets is an adventure beyond her wildest dreams.

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. \*Arab American Book Award Winner

Latham, Irene and 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.

Muhammad, Ibtihaj and Hatem Aly. *The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family* (series). 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."

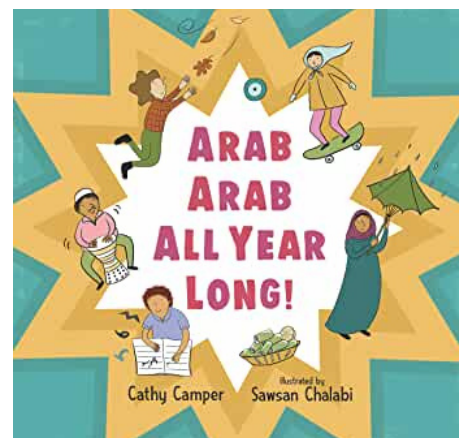
Najjār, Taghrīd 'Ārif. *The Ghoul*. Brave Hassan embarks on a dangerous mission to face the long-feared Ghoul. When Hassan finally meets the Ghoul, he discovers that the Ghoul is just as terrified of people as they are of him. They both realize that they can still be friends, despite their differences.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

Ramadan, Ahmad Danny. *Salma the Syrian Chef*. With 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 and Nizar Ali Badr. *Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey*. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her mother, father, grandfather and brother Sami set out to walk from their Syrian home to freedom in Europe.

Tarnowska, Wafa'. *Nour's Secret Library*. Forced to take shelter when their Syrian city is plagued with bombings, young Nour and her cousin begin to bravely build a secret underground library. Based on the author's own life experience, this proves the power of books to heal, transport and create safe spaces during difficult times.

Yuksel, M.O. and Hatem Aly. *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.



## Fiction

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*. Spunky eleven-year-old Wadjda lives in 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. Wadjda 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, or risk expulsion from school. Still, Wadjda keeps scheming, stopping 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. \*Arab American Book Award Winner



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## Fiction, cont.

Feldman, Jacquetta Nammar. *Wishing Upon the Same Stars*. When twelve-year-old Yasmeen Khoury moves with her family to San Antonio, all she wants to do is fit in. But her classmates in Texas are nothing like her friends in the predominantly Arab neighborhood back in Detroit where she grew up. Almost immediately, Yasmeen feels like the odd girl out, and as she faces middle school mean girls and tries to make new friends, she feels more alone than ever before. Then Yasmeen meets her neighbor, Ayelet Cohen, a first-generation Israeli American. As the two girls grow closer, Yasmeen is grateful to know someone who understands what it feels like when your parents' idea of home is half a world away.

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 nonspeaking brother.

Nuurali, Siman. *Sadiq and the Green Thumbs* (Paperback series). Sadiq and his friends find their teacher, Mr. Kassim, strict and intimidating, but when Sadiq finds out that Mr. Kassim has an injured shoulder he decides to volunteer to help with the gardening--and he convinces his friends to volunteer as well.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *The Turtle of Oman* (series). 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.

*Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices*. A collection of short stories that showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid! Maybe it's waking up to the sound of frying samosas or the comfort of bean pie, maybe it's the pleasure of putting on a new outfit for Eid prayers, or maybe it's the gift giving and holiday parties to come that day. Whatever it may be, for those who cherish this day of celebration, it's all about joy.

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. *A Rover's Story*. Built to explore Mars, Resilience, aka Res, learns new things from the NASA scientists and begins to develop human-like feelings, especially when he arrives on the planet, where he is tested in ways that go beyond space exploration. Also by Jasmine Warga: *Other Words for Home* and *The Shape of Thunder*.

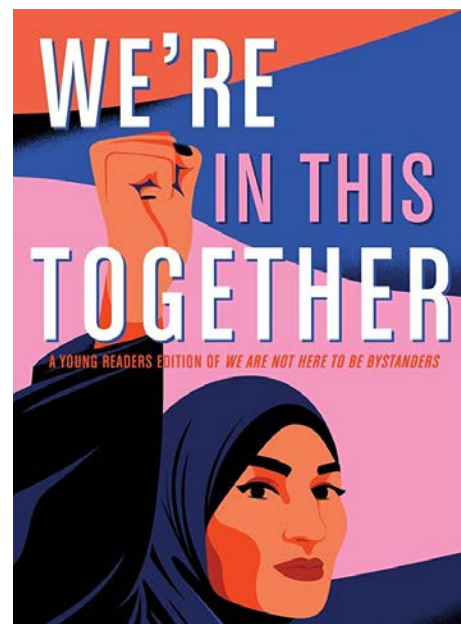
Yūsuf, Bāsim. *The Magical Reality of Nadia* (series). Nadia is ready to start 6th grade with a bang! Fresh off summer vacation with her cousins in Egypt, Nadia is most excited about her school project celebrating the 100th anniversary of The Museum of American History. When one of her classmates starts making snide comments about her Egyptian heritage, Nadia ends up finding support from a magical source — her ancient necklace!

## Nonfiction

Alabed, Bana. *My Name is Bana* (BIO ALA). When seven-year-old Bana Alabed took to Twitter to describe the horrors she and her family were experiencing in war-torn Syria, her heartrending messages gave a voice to millions of innocent children. Written in Bana's own words, this picture book offers a uniquely intimate child's perspective on one of the biggest humanitarian crises in history. Bana has lost her best friend, her school, her home, and her homeland. But she has not lost her hope--for herself and for other children around the world who are victims and refugees of war.

Khalidi, Rodhan Al. *The Three Princes of Serendip: New Tellings of Old Tales for Everyone* (398.209 AL). Filled with wisdom about love and acceptance, and warnings against folly, these elegantly translated stories--many unknown in the United States--of donkeys and roosters, kings, sheikhs, and paupers are a rich and varied introduction to the world of Middle Eastern folklore.

Marwan, Zahra. *Where Butterflies Fill the Sky: A Story of Immigration, Family, and Finding Home* (BIO MAR). Zahra lives in a beautiful place where the desert reaches all the way to the sea and one hundred butterflies always fill the sky. When Baba and Mama tell her that their family is no longer welcome here and they must leave, Zahra wonders if she will ever feel at home again--and what about the people she will leave behind?



Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Everything Comes Next: Collected & New Poems* (811 NYE). A treasure chest of Naomi Shihab Nye's most beloved poems, celebrating her term as Young People's Poet Laureate. Writing prompts and tips by the award-winning poet make this an outstanding choice for aspiring poets of all ages. Also by Naomi Shihab Nye: *Cast Away: Poems for Our Time* (811 NYE).

Sarsour, Linda. *We're in This Together: A Young Readers Edition of We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders* (BIO SAR). Women's March coorganizer and activist Linda Sarsour shares the memories that shaped her into the activist she is today, and how these pivotal moments in her life led her to being an organizer in one of the largest single-day protests in US history.

Tarnowska, Wafa'. *The Arabian Nights* (398.2 TAR). Shahrazade saves herself from execution by distracting King Shahriyar with stories.

Yuksel, M.O. *One Wish: Fatima Al-Fihri and the World's Oldest University*. (BIO AL) The story of Fatima al-Fihri, a trailblazing woman who founded the oldest existing and continually operating university in the world.

The Arab American Book Award is an honor given each year to outstanding books written by or about Arab Americans, defined as anyone who has ancestry in any of the 22 Arab countries. The mission is to celebrate Arab American literature and honor those who have produced exemplary work, with portrayals or representations of Arab Americans that are accurate, engaging and avoid stereotypes.

The award was established in 2006 by the Arab American Museum in partnership with librarians from the University of Toledo. Find more information at [arabamericanmuseum.org](http://arabamericanmuseum.org)