

# Arab & Arab American Creators

## Picture Books

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. *Eleven Words for Love: A Journey Through Arabic Expressions of Love*. A family has fled their homeland in search of safety in another country, carrying a single suitcase. The oldest child reflects on its contents: photo albums that evoke eleven of many names for love in Arabic.

Alaoui, Amina Hachimi. *Alya and the Three Cats*. Myriam's belly is becoming rounder and rounder, like a balloon! 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. She is determined to do it—only by flying can she see the color-filled field of sunflowers her baba has told her about.

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! Join some busy kids as they partake in traditions, 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.

Ebeid, Rifk. *Baba, What Does My Name Mean?* 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—and gets an adventure beyond her wildest dreams.

Ghanameh, Aya. *These Olive Trees*. Oraib loves the olive trees that grow outside the refugee camp where she lives in 1967 Palestine. Each harvest, she and her mama pick the small fruits and she eagerly stomp stomp stomps on them to release their golden oil. Olives have always tied her family to the land, as Oraib learns from the stories Mama tells of a home before war.

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 and Karim Shamsi-Basha. *The Cat Man of Aleppo*. When war came to Syria, many fled and were forced to become refugees in faraway places, but Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel, stayed behind to care for neighbors in need, including 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 loves her 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 they meet, he discovers that the Ghoul is just as terrified of people as they are of him and they realize that they can still be friends, despite their differences. Also by Taghrīd 'Ārif Najjār: *My Brother and Me*.

Pliska, Zeena M and Hatem Aly. *Egyptian Lullaby*. In this love letter to Cairo, a young child is sung a lullaby by her great-aunt, who paints a vivid portrait of the city.

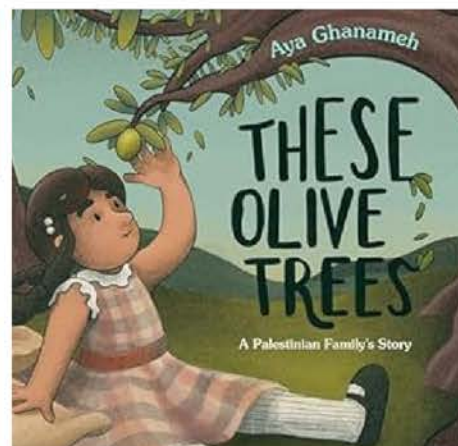
Rafi, Sana. *A Mermaid Girl*. Wearing her burkini to the community pool for the first time, Heba stands out more than she likes, but she shows her friends that she can swim and play the same way they can, even though her swimsuit looks different.

Ramadan, Ahmad Danny. *Salma the Syrian Chef*. With English classes, job interviews, and missing Papa back in Syria, Mama always seems busy or sad. Maybe a homemade Syrian meal will cheer her up!

Rodaah, Rahma. *Dear Muslim Child*. This lyrical picture book encourages Muslim children to be proud of their identity.

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 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.



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. Also by M.O. Yuksel: *Ramadan Kareem*.

## Fiction

Abbas, Marzieh. *Lunch in the Leaves* (Reader Level 2 series). After things get a little too rough playing in the leaves, Nadia and Nadir decide to create natural art while waiting for their Abu and Ammi to make a cozy barbecue lunch.

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. So she casts a spell from her grandmother's mysterious charm book and falls into a new world.

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.

\*Arab American Book Award recipient

The Arab American Book Award is 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 with portrayals or representations of Arab Americans that are accurate, engaging, and avoid stereotypes.

Find more information at [arabamericanmuseum.org](http://arabamericanmuseum.org)

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## Fiction, cont.

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, where Maria joins forces with a local boy to sail and search for pirate treasure.

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 middle school, but when a new girl starts tormenting Farah and her younger brother, Samir, she decides she can not leave him to face the bully alone.

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 are nothing like her friends in the predominantly Arab neighborhood in Detroit where she grew up. Then Yasmeen meets her neighbor, Ayelet Cohen, a first-generation Israeli American and is grateful to know someone who understands what it feels like when your parents' idea of home is a world away.

Hussain, Salma. *The Secret Diary of Mona Hasan*. Mona is a young Muslim girl growing up in Dubai, where the first Gulf War has broken out close by. School doesn't even close but her family moves from big-city Dubai to small-town Canada. The journey also prompts life's big (and small) questions: When will my chest grow, Allah? Why isn't my mother like the mothers on TV? And why is Baba ruining our lives by moving us to Canada?

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.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *The Turtle of Oman* (series). Aref has serious misgivings about temporarily moving from his homeland, Oman, to Michigan. As he avoids packing his suitcase, Aref savors the familiar sights, sounds and scents of his hometown.

Once Upon an Eid: *Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices*. A collection of short stories from the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid! Waking up to frying samosas or the comfort of bean pie, the pleasure of a new outfit for Eid prayers, the gift giving and holiday parties.

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.

Roumani, Rhonda. *Tagging Freedom*. Cousins Kareem and Samira, living in Massachusetts, navigate the growing conflict in Syria, friendships, and the use of art to express themselves.

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.

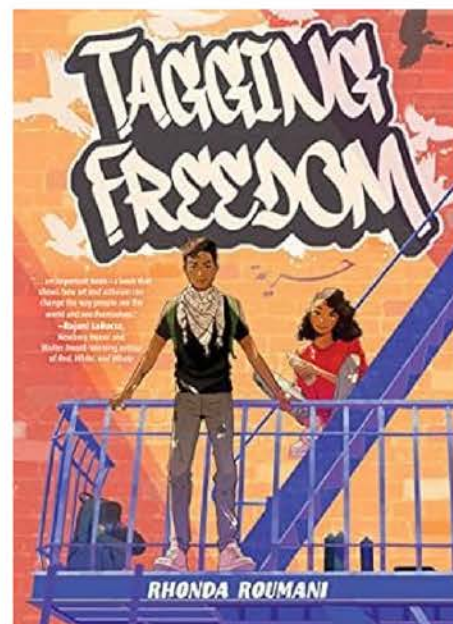
Warga, Jasmine. *A Rover's Story*. Built to explore Mars, Resilience, aka Res, learns new things from the NASA scientists and begins to develop human-like feelings, especially when he arrives on the planet, and is tested in ways that go beyond space exploration. Also by Jasmine Warga: *Other Words for 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). Seven-year-old Bana Alabed took to Twitter to describe the horrors she and her family were experiencing in war-torn Syria. 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.

Al Khalidi, Rodhan. *The Three Princes of Serendip: New Tellings of Old Tales for Everyone* (398.209 AL). Filled with wisdom and warnings, these stories of donkeys and roosters, kings, sheikhs, and paupers are a rich and varied introduction to the world of Middle Eastern folklore.



Almellehan, Muzoon. *Muzoon: A Syrian Refugee Speaks Out*. (BIO ALM) Muzoon was fourteen years old when her family made the wrenching decision to leave their home in Syria after war began and peaceful protests were met with shootings.

Lari, Zahra. *Not Yet: The Story of an Unstoppable Ice Skater* (BIO LARI). Zahra sets her mind to learn how to ice skate even though her family and friends doubt her abilities and figure skaters don't look like her...not yet, at least!

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 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.

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.

Sarsour, Linda. *We're in This Together* (BIO SAR). Women's March co-organizer Linda Sarsour shares the memories that shaped her into the activist she is today.

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

Tlaib, Rashida. *Mama in Congress: Rashida Tlaib's Journey to Washington\** (BIO TLAIB). When Yousif Tlaib asks about his mom's new job in Congress, his older brother, Adam, fills him in—with some help from Rashida Tlaib herself.

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.