

Middle Eastern and North African Heritage Month (MENA) Resources

April is Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Heritage Month. It is a time to celebrate the rich history and diverse cultures of this vast region, stretching from Morocco in the West to Afghanistan in the East, from Iran in the North to Sudan in the South.

Springhurst Library Media Specialist Lauren Rodriguez, Middle/High School Library Media Specialist Ellen Elsen, and K-8 Literacy Coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek have teamed up with Dobbs Ferry Public Library Children's Librarian Gina Elbert and Teen Librarian Alex Yeranossian to create this resource list to help your classes explore and celebrate MENA Heritage throughout the month.

Booklist

Below is a list of published books. You can access items marked with a blue dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry school libraries and items marked with a yellow dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Please contact your librarians to put them on hold and/or learn more information about the formats in which these titles are available. This is a sampling of available resources and not an exhaustive list. If you would like help finding more, please contact your librarians.

****Please note: Titles in bold are new to the list.**

Picture Books and Easy Readers

- *Amira's Picture Day* by Reem Faruqi ● ●
- *Counting Up the Olive Tree: A Palestine Number Book* by Golbarg Barshi
- *Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets: A Muslim Book of Shapes* by Hena Khan ●
- *Deep in the Sahara* by Kelly Cunnane ● ●
- ***Homeland* by Hannah Moushabeck** ●
- *Lailah's Lunchbox* by Reem Faruqi ●
- *Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey* by Doug Kuntz ●
- *Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers* by Lina AlHathloul and Uma Mishra-Newbery ●
- *Masai and I* by Virginia Kroll ● ●
- *My Beautiful Birds* by Susanne Del Rizzo ●
- *Nour's Secret Library* by Wafa Tarnowska ●
- *Ramadan Moon* by Na'ima B. Robert ● ●
- *Sabbath Lion: A Jewish Folktale from Algeria* by Howard Schwartz ●
- *Sadiq* series by Siman Nuurali ● ●
- *Salma the Syrian Chef* by Danny Ramadan ●
- *Sitti's Secrets* by Naomi Shihab Nye ● ●
- *Ten Ways to Hear Snow* by Cathy Camper ●
- *The Cat Man of Aleppo* by Irene Latham ● ●
- *The Shape of Home* by Rashin Kheiriyeh ●
- *The Ghoul* by Taghreed Najjar ●

- **These Olive Trees by Aya Ghanameh** ●
- *The Three Lucys* by Hayan Charara ●

Elementary Non-fiction

- *A Kid's Guide to Arab American History* by Yvonne Wakim Dennis and Maha Addasi ●
- *Amazing Women of the Middle East: 25 Stories from Ancient Times to Present Day* by Wafa Tarnowska ●
- *Fly, Girl, Fly!: Shaesta Waiz Soars Around the World* by Nancy Roe Pimm ●
- *Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books* by Susan L. Roth ●
- *King Tutankhamun Tells All!* by Chris Naunton and Guilherme Karste ●
- *Ibn Al-Haytham: The Man Who Discovered How We See* by Libby Romero ●
- *Middle Eastern Food (I Can Cook series)* by Wendy Blaxland ● ●
- *My Grandma and Me* by Mina Javaherbin ● ●
- *Osnat and Her Dove: The True Story of the World's First Rabbi* by Sigal Samuel ●
- *Ramadan and Id-ul-Fitr* by Nancy Dickmann ● ●
- *Ramadan* by Suhaib Hamid Ghazi ● ●
- *Solar Story* by Allan Drummond ●
- *The Curse of the Mummy: Uncovering Tutankhamun's Tomb* by Candace Flemming ● ●
- *The Egyptian News* by Scott Steedman ● ●
- *The Legend of the Persian Carpet* by Tomie DePaola ● ●
- *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq* by Jeanette Winter ● ●
- *The World Is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid* by Jeanette Winter ●
- *Who was King Tut?* by Roberta Edwards ● ●
- *Zarafa: The Giraffe Who Walked to the King* by Judith St. George ● ●

Middle Grade Fiction

- *All-American Muslim Girl* by Nadine Jolie Courtney ● ●
- *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park ● ●
- *A Pocketful of Stars* by Aisha Bushby ●
- *Escape from Aleppo* by NH Senzai ● ●
- *Farah Rocks* series by Susan Muadi Darraj ●
- *Once Upon an Eid* by S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed ● ●
- *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga ● ●
- *Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein: Based on a True Story* by Jennifer Roy ● ●
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz ● ●
- *Shad Hadid and the Alchemists of Alexandria* by George Jreije ●
- *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis ● ●
- *The Magical Reality of Nadia* by Basim Youssef ● ●
- *The Red Pencil* by Andrea Davis Pinkney ● ●
- *The Shadow of Ghadames* by Joëlle Stolz ●
- *Turtle of Michigan* by Naomi Shihab Nye ●
- *The Turtle of Oman* by Naomi Shihab Nye ●
- *The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees (graphic novel)* by Don Brown ● ●
- **Wild Poppies** by Haya Saleh ●
- *Wishing Upon the Same Stars* by Jacquette Nammar Feldman ●
- *Zenobia (graphic novel)* by Morten Dürr and Lars Horneman ● ●

Middle Grade Non-fiction

- *1001 Inventions and Awesome Facts From Muslim Civilization* by National Geographic Society ●
- ***A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea: One Refugee's Incredible Story of Love, Loss, and Survival*** by Melissa Fleming ● ●
- *Islamophobia: Deal With It In the Name of Peace* by Safia Saleh ●
- *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood* by Ibtisam Barakat ● ●
- *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan ● ●
- *Young Palestinians Speak: Living Under Occupation* by Anthony Robinson ●

YA Fiction

- *All-American Muslim Girl* by Nadine Jolie Courtney ● ●
- ***As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow*** by Zoulfa Katouh ●
- *Darius the Great Deserves Better* by Adib Khorram ● ●
- *Darius the Great Is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram ● ●
- *Does My Head Look Big In This?* by Randa Abdel-Fattah ●
- *An Emotion of Great Delight* by Tahereh Mafi ● ●
- *Escape from Syria (graphic novel)* by Samya Kullab, Jackie Roche & Mike Freiheit ● ●
- *Everything Sad Is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri ● ●
- ***Hollow Fires*** by Samira Ahmed ● ●
- *Home Is Not a Country* by Safia Elhillo ● ●
- ***Huda F Are You and Huda F Cares (graphic novels)*** by Huda Fahmy ● ●
- *Internment* by Samira Ahmed ● ●
- ***It All Comes Back to You*** by Farah Naz Rishi ●
- ***Like a Love Story*** by Abdi Nazemian ●
- *Love, Hate, and Other Filters* by Samira Ahmed ● ●
- ***The Next New Syrian Girl*** by Ream Shukairy ●
- ***Only This Beautiful Moment*** by Abdi Nazemian ●
- *Perfectly Parvin* by Olivia Abtahi ● ●
- ***Squire (graphic novel)*** by Nadia Shamas ●
- ***A Tempest of Tea*** by Hafsah Faizal ● ●
- ***This Is All Your Fault*** by Aminah Mae Safi ●
- *A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Taherah Mafi ● ●
- ***We Hunt the Flame*** by Hafsah Faizal ●
- ***Zara Hossain Is Here*** by Sabina Khan ●

YA Non-fiction

- *Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi ● ●
- ***From Here: A Memoir*** by Luma Mufleh ● ●
- *Persepolis (graphic non-fiction)* by Marjane Satrapi ● ●

Websites

Colours of Us: All About Multi-Cultural Children's Books

<https://coloursofus.com/20-childrens-books-set-in-the-middle-east-northern-africa/>

Your one-stop source for multicultural children's books (listed by subjects, ethnicity and age groups), toys and clothes. Because representation matters!

National Council for the Social Studies

<https://www.socialstudies.org/social-studies-and-young-learner/30/3/picture-books-bring-arab-voices-and-middle-east-and-north>

An annotated list of children's books that are high quality, unbiased, and non-stereotypical portrayals of Arabs. It is also a collection that brings the native voices of the MENA region to elementary readers.

Notes from an Islamic School Librarian

<https://islamicschool librarian.com/>

Reviewing Children & YA Islamic Fiction, Books by Muslim Authors, & Books Featuring Muslim Characters.