



# The Middle East

## Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

Grade Level	Title Information	Call Number
<b>EASY</b>		
1 - 4	Addasi, Maha. <i>Time to Pray</i> . Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mill Press, 2010.	E AD215T
	<p>I heard the voice of the muezzin calling, "Come to pray, come to pray."            Yasmin is visiting her grandmother, who lives in a country somewhere in the Middle East. On her first night, she's wakened by the muezzin at the nearby mosque calling the faithful to prayer, and Yasmin watches from her bed as her grandmother prepares to pray. A visit with Grandmother is always special, but this time it is even more so. Her grandmother makes Yasmin prayer clothes, buys her a prayer rug, and teaches her the five prayers that Muslims perform over the course of a day. When it's time for Yasmin to board a plane and return home, her grandmother gives her a present that her granddaughter opens when she arrives: a prayer clock in the shape of a mosque, with an alarm that sounds like a muezzin calling the faithful to prayer.</p>	
PreK-4	Baker, Jeannie. <i>Mirror</i> . Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2010.	E B1742M
	<p>In Sydney, Australia, and in Morocco, two boys and their families have a day of shopping. Readers are invited to compare illustrations in two wordless stories that are intended to be read one from left to right and the other from right to left.</p>	
K - 3	Faruqi, Reem. <i>Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story</i> . Thomaston, ME:	E

Tilbury House Publishers, 2015. F251L

Now that she is ten, Lailah is delighted that she can fast during the month of Ramadan like her family and her friends in Abu Dhabi but finding a way to explain to her teacher and classmates in Atlanta is a challenge until she gets some good advice from the librarian, Mrs. Carman.

K - 2 Gilani-Williams, Fawzia. *Nabeel's New Pants*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Children, 2010. (Also by author: *Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam*) E  
G375N

While buying gifts for his family to wear to the mosque on Eid a shoemaker is persuaded to get new pants for himself, but the only pair available is too long and no one seems to have time to shorten them.

K - 3 Gonzales, Mark. *Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to His Daughter*. New York: Salaam Reads, 2017. E  
G5891Y

A lyrical celebration of multiculturalism as a parent shares with a child the value of their heritage and why it should be a source of pride, even when others disagree.

K - 4 Khan, Hena. *Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets: A Muslim Book of Shapes*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2018. E  
K5272C

In simple rhyming text a young Muslim girl guides the reader through the traditions and shapes of Islam.

1 - 3 Kimmel, Eric. *Joha Makes a Wish: A Middle Eastern Tale*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Children, 2010. E  
K5714J

An original story, based on the Joha tales of the Arabic-speaking world, in which a hapless man finds a wishing stick that brings him nothing but bad luck.

PreK - 2 MacDonald, Margaret Read. *Tunjur! Tunjur! Tunjur! A Palestinian Folktale*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Children, 2006. E  
M1457

A childless woman's prayers are answered by the arrival of a talking pot, but the new mother knows that Little Pot must learn right from wrong just like any child.

PreK - 2 Matze, Claire Sidhom. *The Stars in My Geddoh's Sky*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 1999. E  
M438S

Alex's Arabic-speaking grandfather comes to visit the United States, and Alex learns about his grandfather's Middle Eastern homeland.

- 1 – 2 Nam, Jeong-hee. *Lion, King, and Coin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2017. E  
N1505L
- Laos enjoys his life in ancient Turkey. His father and grandfather are famous for crafting gold into beautiful objects, and Laos helps in their market stall, bartering gold for food and livestock. But exchanging such different goods is complicated. They need something to represent the value of their goods -- and so the king gives Laos's family the very important task of creating the world's first currency.
- PreK - 2 Ofanansky, Allison. *Sukkot Treasure Hunt*. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben, 2009. E  
OF1S
- In Israel, a young girl and her family go on a scavenger hunt to find the "four species" they will use in their celebration of the Jewish holiday, Sukkot. Includes facts about plants named in the story.
- 2 - 6 Rumford, James. *Silent Music: A Story About Baghdad*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2008. E  
R865S
- As bombs and missiles fall on Baghdad in 2003, a young boy uses the art of calligraphy to distance himself from the horror of war.
- PreK - 1 Sinykin, Sherri Cooper. *Zayde Comes to Live*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers, 2012. E  
SI69Z
- When Rachel's beloved grandfather, Zayde, comes to spend his last days with her family, she worries what will happen when he dies, especially after friends tell her the Christian and Muslim beliefs about the afterlife.
- 3 - 5 Suneby, Elizabeth. *Razia's Ray of Hope: One Girl's Dream of an Education*. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press, 2013. E  
SU7265R
- Razia dreams of getting an education, but in her small Afghan village, girls have not been allowed to attend school for many years, when a new girls' school opens in the village, Razia must convince her family to let her attend.
- PreK - K Thompkins-Bigelow, Jamilah. *Mommy's Khimar*. New York: Salaam Reads, 2018. E  
T3708M
- A young Muslim girl puts on a head scarf and not only feels closer to her mother, she also imagines herself as a queen, the sun, a superhero, and more.
- 1 - 3 Weulersse, Odile. *Nasreddine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2013. E  
W54N
- As Nasreddine and his father take dates, wool, chickens, or watermelon to market, people tease them no matter who is riding their donkey, and this

causes Nasreddine embarrassment until his father helps him to understand.

- PreK - 1 Williams, Emma. *The Story of Hurry*. New York: Seven Stories Press/Triangle Square, 2014. E  
W6717S
- A young donkey, named Hurry because he is always "on the trot," witnesses the sadness and suffering of the children in occupied Gaza and helps the only way he can--by letting the zookeeper paint stripes on him to make him a pretend zebra.
- 2 - 5 Williams, Karen Lynn. *Four Feet, Two Sandals*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2007. E  
W6737F
- Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers.
- 2 - 4 Winter, Jeannette. *Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan*. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2005. E  
W7344N
- After her parents are taken away by the Taliban, young Nasreen stops speaking. But as she spends time in a secret school, she slowly breaks out of her shell.

## FICTION

- 9 - 12 Abdel-Fattah, Randa. *The Lines We Cross*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2017. F  
AB31L
- Michael's parents are leaders of a new anti-immigrant political party called Aussie Values which is trying to halt the flood of refugees from the Middle East; Mina fled Afghanistan with her family ten years ago, and just wants to concentrate on fitting in and getting into college--but the mutual attraction they feel demands that they come to terms with their family's concerns and decide where they stand in the ugly anti-Muslim politics of the time.
- 5 - 12 Abirached, Zeina. *A Game for Swallows: To Die, To Leave, To Return*. Minneapolis, MN: Graphic Universe, 2012. F  
AB59G
- Living in the midst of civil war in Beirut, Lebanon, Zeina and her brother face an evening of apprehension when their parents do not return from a visit to the other side of the city.
- 9 - 12 Ahmed, Samira. *Love, Hate & Other Filters*. New York: Soho Teen, 2018. F  
AH52L
- Maya Aziz, seventeen, is caught between her India-born parents' world of college and marrying a suitable Muslim boy and her dream world of film

school and dating her classmate, Phil, when a terrorist attack changes her life forever.

- 9 - 12 Ali, S.K. *Saints and Misfits*. New York: Salaam Reads, 2017. F  
AL416S
- Fifteen-year-old Janna Yusuf, a Flannery O'Connor-obsessed book nerd and the daughter of the only divorced mother at their mosque, tries to make sense of the events that follow when her best friend's cousin--a holy star in the Muslim community--attempts to assault her at the end of sophomore year.
- 9 - 12 Carleson, J.C. *The Tyrant's Daughter*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. F  
C193T
- Exiled to the United States after her father, a Middle Eastern dictator, is killed in a coup, fifteen-year-old Laila must cope with a completely new way of life, the truth of her father's regime, and her mother and brother's ways of adjusting.
- N/A Dau, Stephen. *The Book of Jonas*. New York: Blue Rider Press, 2012. F  
D263B
- When his family is killed during an errant U.S. military operation in the Middle East, fifteen-year-old Jonas is sent to live with a foster family in America and struggles to adapt before revealing the heroics of a missing soldier who saved his life.
- Khadiwi, Laleh. *A Good Country*. New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2017. F  
K5263G
- Reza Courdee, a sixteen-year-old straight-A student and chemistry whiz, takes his first hit of pot. In as long as it takes to inhale and exhale, he is transformed from the high-achieving son of Iranian immigrants into a happy-go-lucky stoner. He loses his virginity, takes up surfing, and sneaks away to all-night raves. For the first time, Reza--now Rez--feels like an American teen. Life is smooth; even lying to his strict parents comes easily. But then he changes again, falling out with the bad boy surfers and in with a group of kids more awake to the world around them, who share his background, and whose ideas fill him with a very different sense of purpose. Within a year, Reza and his girlfriend are making their way to Syria to be part of a Muslim nation rising from the ashes of the civil war.
- 4 - 6 Khan, Hena. *Amina's Voice*. New York: Salaam Reads, 2017. F  
K5272A
- A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school. After her local mosque is vandalized, she is devastated. Her friend Soojin is talking about changing her

name. Does Amina need to become more "American" and hide who she really is?

- 8 - 12 Moriarty, Laura. *American Heart*. New York: HarperTeen, 2018. F  
M8249A
- Imagine a United States in which registries and detainment camps for Muslim Americans are a reality. This is the world of fifteen-year-old Sarah-Mary Williams of Hannibal, Missouri. Sarah-Mary, who has strong opinions on almost everything, isn't concerned with the internments, as she doesn't know any Muslims. She assumes that everything she reads and sees in the news is true, and that these plans are better for everyone's safety. Then she meets Sadaf, a fugitive escaping to Canada. Should she turn her in ... or help her?
- 8 - 12 Rosenblatt, Darcey. *Lost Boys*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2017. F  
R7237L
- In 1982 Iran, twelve-year-old Reza is more interested in music than war, but enlists in obedience to his devout mother and soon finds himself in a prison camp in Iraq.
- 5 - 8 Saeed, Aisha. *Amal Unbound*. New York: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018. F  
SA163A
- Twelve-year-old Amal's dream of becoming a teacher one day is dashed in an instant when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village's ruling family. As punishment for her behavior, she is forced to leave her heartbroken family behind and go work at their estate. Amal is distraught but has faced setbacks before. So she summons her courage and begins navigating the complex rules of life as a servant, with all its attendant jealousies and pecking-order woes. Most troubling, though, is Amal's increasing awareness of the deadly measures the Khan family will go to in order to stay in control. It's clear that their hold over her village will never loosen as long as everyone is too afraid to challenge them--so if Amal is to have any chance of ensuring her loved ones' safety and winning back her freedom, she must find a way to work with the other servants to make it happen.
- N/A Wilson, G. Willow. *Alif the Unseen*. New York: Grove Press, 2012. F  
W6933A
- In an unnamed Middle Eastern security state, a young Arab-Indian hacker shields his clients, dissidents, outlaws, Islamists, and other watched groups, from surveillance and tries to stay out of trouble. He goes by Alif, the first letter of the Arabic alphabet, and a convenient handle to hide behind.
- 6 - 8 Zenatti, Valérie. *A Bottle in the Gaza Sea*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008. F  
Z425B

Seventeen-year-old Tal Levine of Jerusalem, despondent over the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict, puts her hopes for peace in a bottle and asks her brother, a military nurse in the Gaza Strip, to toss it into the sea, leading ultimately to friendship and understanding between her and an "enemy."

## BIOGRAPHY

- |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |               |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| N/A    | Tolan, Sandy. <i>Children of the Stone: The Power of Music in a Hard Land</i> . New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2015.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | B<br>AB95T    |
|        | Ramzi Hussein Aburedwan, a child from a Palestinian refugee camp, confronts an occupying army, gets an education, masters an instrument, dreams of something much bigger than himself, and then, through his charisma and persistence, inspires scores of others to work with him to make that dream real. The dream: a school to transform the lives of thousands of children-- as Ramzi's life was transformed-- through music                                                           |               |
| 7 - 12 | Barakat, Ibtisam. <i>Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood</i> . New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | B<br>B2312B   |
|        | In this groundbreaking memoir set in Ramallah during the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War, Ibtisam Barakat captures what it is like to be a child whose world is shattered by war. With candor and courage, she 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 Alef, the first letter of the Arabic alphabet. |               |
| N/A    | Willett, Edward. <i>Ayatollah Khomeini</i> . New York: Rosen Pub. Group, 2004.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | B<br>K5285W   |
|        | Examines the life and leadership skills of Ayatollah Khomeini, who established the "ideal Islamic state" in Iran and encouraged Muslims worldwide to demonstrate against non-Islamic nations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |               |
| 4 - 6  | MacLean, Alistair. <i>Lawrence of Arabia</i> . New York: Sterling, 2005.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | B<br>L438MA.A |
|        | Biography of the English soldier and adventurer who fought and lived with the Arabs in World War I.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |               |
| N/A    | Witte, Sam. <i>Gamal-Abdel Nasser</i> . New York: Rosen Pub. Group, 2004.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | B<br>N188W    |
|        | Examines the life and leadership skills of Egyptian president Gamal-Abdel Nasser, who led the revolt that overthrew King Faruk in 1952 and established Egypt as a republic.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |               |
| N/A    | Alagna, Magdalena. <i>Anwar Sadat</i> . New York: Rosen Pub. Group, 2004.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | B             |

SA15A

Examines the life and leadership skills of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, who won a Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the peace process after the 1973 war with Israel.

- 3 - 12      Yousafzai, Malala. *Malala's Magic Pencil*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2017.      B  
Y887YOM

As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.

## NONFICTION

- 4 - 6      Melman, Anna. *Islam in America*. Broomall, PA: Mason Crest Publishers, 2010.      297.0973  
M49I

Discusses Muslim life in America, including American perceptions of Islam, the history of the faith in the United States, the variety of Muslim communities, immigration, and extremism.

- 9 - 12      Conover, Sarah. *Ayat Jamilah = Beautiful Signs: A Treasury of Islamic Wisdom for Children and Parents*. Spokane, WA: Eastern Washington University Press, 2004.      297.1  
C763A

Presents Islamic stories that offer a background in Islamic traditions, folk tales, and mystical verse.

- 4 - 6      Barnard, Bryan. *The Genius of Islam: How Muslims Made the Modern World*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2011.      297.2  
B253G

Examines the influence of Islamic culture on our music, books, language, clothes, science, and more.

- 4 - 6      Kent, Deborah. *Middle Eastern Migration*. Chicago: Raintree, 2012.      305.23086  
K414M

Uses personal narratives to describe the migration of different peoples in the Middle East, including the Palestinians and Lebanese.

- 6 - 12      Harik, Ramsay M. *Women in the Middle East: Tradition and Change*. New York: Franklin Watts, 2003.      305.42  
H224W



Discusses the lives of women in the Middle East today including the traditions that shape these lives, the present day religious, social and political realities, and changing expectations.

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|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| N/A     | Torstrick, Rebecca L. <b><i>Culture and Customs of the Arab Gulf States</i></b> . Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2009. (Part of the <i>Culture and Customs of the Middle East</i> series)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 306.09536<br>T638C  |
|         | Clear and vivid descriptions of contemporary life in the Arab Gulf help students discover how traditions of the past have evolved into customs today. This exhaustive volume covers topics such as religion, festivals, cuisine, fashion, family life, literature, the media, and music, among many others. Up-to-date and comprehensive, this volume offers a unique and contemporary depiction of culture in some of the world's wealthiest, up-and-coming nations. |                     |
| K - 4   | Smith, Chris. <b><i>One City, Two Brothers</i></b> . Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books, 2007.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 398.20933<br>SM536O |
|         | To settle an inheritance dispute between two brothers, King Solomon tells a tale of how Jerusalem came to be founded.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                     |
| 2 - 3   | Blaxland, Wendy. <b><i>Middle Eastern Food</i></b> . Mankato, MN: Smart Apple Media, 2012.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 641.5956<br>B6141MI |
|         | Describes historical, cultural, and geographical factors that have influenced the cuisine of the Middle East. Includes recipes to create Middle-Eastern food.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                     |
| N/A     | Fullman, Joe. <b><i>Ancient History</i></b> . London, UK: DK, 2011.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 930<br>F9595A       |
|         | With this incredible visual guide, readers can observe the night sky to learn about Mayan gods and beliefs, or barter for exotic spices and perfumes in the trade that build Arabian cities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                     |
| 10 - 12 | Lansford, Tom [Ed.] <b><i>The War in Iraq</i></b> . Detroit, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2009.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 956.7044<br>W195    |
|         | Explains international reactions to the war in Iraq through essays covering countries ranging from France and Denmark to Iran and Israel.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |
| 6 - 9   | Frank, Mitch. <b><i>Understanding the Holy Land: Answering Questions About the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict</i></b> . New York: Viking, 2005.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 956.9405<br>F851U   |
|         | Complete with maps and photographs, a guide provides a comprehensive review of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a review of the area's history, its people, significant past and present events, and definitions of commonly used terms.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                     |
| 4 - 6   | Cooper, Ilene. <b><i>Faith and Fury: The Temple Mount and the Noble</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 956.9442            |

*Sanctuary. The Story of Jerusalem's Most Sacred Space.* New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2017. C785F

Temple Mount is a site where worlds meet, conflict arises, and history changes. Standing in the center of Jerusalem, it is a holy landmark for Jews, Muslims, and Christians alike, and has been the locus of many of the most important religious, social, and political upheavals of the last thousand years. Rumored to be the location of the Garden of Eden, Temple Mount dominates Jerusalem's Old City and contains the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall, both of which attract millions of visitors and religious pilgrims each year.

N/A Nardo, Don. *Understanding Afghanistan Today.* Hockessin, DE: Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2015. 958.1 N166U

Understanding Afghanistan Today explores the Middle Eastern nation of Afghanistan with a focus on the country as it is today: current issues, culture, and lifestyle.

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