

# THE WORLD OF ARAB AND MUSLIM CHILDREN IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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Relatively few books exist in English that give children a vision of the Arab world or of Islam, but there are some picture and chapter books that are told from Arab and Muslim perspectives or sympathetically portray these cultures, and avoid stereotypes. In the last few years, since 2001, there has been some increase in books about the Arab world as well as about Islam. In this update of my earlier annotated bibliography, I have included newer books. There are other good sources of bibliographies, including Children's Literature's Themed Reviews: Middle East, at <http://www.childrenslit.com/home.htm>.

I have included both fiction and non-fiction. For non-fiction I have limited my search to books published since 1990, except for some books about Islam, which include titles from the early 1980s. It is evident that some publishers have made an effort since 2001 to be more inclusive of books by and about people from the Middle East or from Muslim countries. I have read most of the books of fiction and all of the picture books, but have seen only a few of the non-fiction works. The publishers, however, are reliable, many specializing in series books about a wide range of countries and the books have been positively reviewed in *School Library Journal* or appeared in *Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade Six*, 1998, and *Best Books for Young Teen Readers, Grades 7 to 10*, 2000, Bowker and *Children's Catalog 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 Supplements*. Even in the best reviewed books, however, there can be inaccuracies, especially in the illustrations of picture story books which include details that the text omits.

However thorough in their research, illustrators from outside the culture often miss nuances and cultural details, and reviewers, who are usually also from outside the culture, also miss these errors. For this reason, no single book should be relied on as the sole source of information about any country or culture. Fiction and non-fiction, contemporary pictures obtained from other sources, and interviews with people from the culture should also be used when introducing a culture or a country. In an attempt to focus on contemporary culture, I have included only a limited number of folktales. For the same reason, I have omitted books about ancient Egypt or Mesopotamia. Books on these topics, however, are readily available. **Reliable sources for more books on this or other international topics are listed at the end of the bibliography.**

## PICTURE BOOKS AND BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

### IMAGINATIVE LITERATURE

Addasi, Maha. *The White Nights of Ramadan*. Illustrated by Ned Gannon. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2008. 32p. Noor and her brothers, Sam and Dan are getting ready for the mid-Ramadan month festival, Girigan, when the children go from door to door with festive, decorated bags, collecting candies. The children get ready all day and by evening they are ready to walk through the full-moon and lanterns lit streets. The story conveys the children's excitement and joy and closes with the calm of Noor and her grandfather walking to the Mosque to deliver a basket of food for the poor. **KUWAIT, ISLAM**

Gray, Nigel. *A Balloon for Granddad*. Illustrated by Jane Ray. New York: Orchard Books, c1988. [30] p. 1st American ed. Unhappy when he loses his silver and red balloon, Sam is comforted by imagining it on its way to visit his grandfather in Egypt. **FICTION. EGYPT**

Heide, Florence Perry and Judith Heide Gilliland. *Days of Ahmed's Secret*. Illustrated by Ted Lewin. New York: Clarion, 1990. 32 pp. Ages 6-8 Ahmed learns to write while working a full-day delivering water. We follow Ahmed through the streets of Cairo. **FICTION. EGYPT**

Heide, Florence Perry and Judith Heide Gilliland. *The House of Wisdom*. Illustrated by Mary Grandpre. New York: DK, 1999. 32 p. Ages 4-8. Ishaq a young boy from ancient Baghdad becomes scholar and traveler in search of books for the House of Wisdom, Baghdad's library. **FICTION. IRAQ**

Heide, Florence Perry and Judith Heide Gilliland. *Sami and the Time of Troubles*. Illustrated by Ted Lewin. New York: Clarion, 1992. 32 pp. Ages 7-11 Sami recounts his daily life in war-torn Lebanon in the 1980s. **FICTION. LEBANON**

Khan, Rukhsana. *The Roses in My Carpets*. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. New York: Holiday House, 1998. 32 p. Ages 7-9. When a young boy and his mother and sister come to a refugee camp to escape the war in Afghanistan, he finds some comfort in the beauty of the carpets he is learning to weave. Explicit about dangers of war and hardship of refugee camp, but optimistic. **FICTION. AFGHANISTAN**

Lewin, Ted. *The Storytellers*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, c1998. 32 p. Abdul and Grandfather pass through the streets of Fez, Morocco, and stop at an old gate, where Grandfather performs as a storyteller. Lovely, culturally specific illustrations. **FICTION. MOROCCO**

Marchant, Kerena. *Muslim Festival Tales*. Illustrated by Tina Barber. Series: Festival Tales. Austin, TX: Raintree/ Steck-Vaughn, 2001. 32 p. Ages 7-9. Attractive, includes six or seven stories, plays, traditional songs, poems, and recipes. Information material about festivals is for older reader, thus needing adult interpreter. **ISLAM**

Matthews, Mary. *Magid Fasts for Ramadan*. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. New York: Clarion Books, c1996. 48 p. Ages 7-10. Magid, an eight-year-old Muslim boy in Cairo, is determined to celebrate Ramadan by fasting, despite the opposition of family members who feel that he is not yet old enough to fast. **FICTION. EGYPT/ISLAM**

Matze, Claire Sidhom. *The Stars in My Geddoh's Sky*. Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2000. 32p. Ages 3-7. Alex's grandfather comes to visit. The objects he pulls from his trunk help Alex learn about his Geddoh's homeland in Egypt. Figures in the illustrations and dialogue in the text are often stiff and unnatural, but the oil on linen paintings luminously depict scenes in both countries. (HB 09/99) **EGYPT**

Mobin-Uddin. *The Best Eid Ever*. Illustrated by Laura Jacobsen. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press. 2007. 32p. Ages 6-8. Because her parents have gone to Mecca on a Hajj, Aneesa thinks this year's Eid celebration will not be very happy for her. But it turns out to be the best Eid ever when she shares the wonderful clothes and food her grandmother made with two newly arrived refugee children. An afterword explains the meaning of Eid **ISLAM. UNITED STATES.**

Mobin-Uddin. *My Name is Bilal*. Illustrated by Barbara Kiwak. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2005. 32 p. Ages 7-9. Bilal and his sister Ayesha are new at their small-town school and seem to be the only Muslim children. When a bully and his friends start teasing Ayesha about her head scarf Bilal pretends that he is not with her, and when later his teacher asks his name, he says it's Bill. The teacher, who is an old friend of Bilal's father and a Muslim as well, does not scold Bill, but instead gives him a book about Bilal ibn Rabah, the first man to give the call to prayer during the Prophet's time. As Bilal reads about the courage of this man as he had to defend his faith against his tormentors, he too gains courage and the next time he does stand up to the bully. In the end he makes friends with the boy. At the end of the book the author gives the English translation of the call to prayer, the adhan. **FICTION MUSLIMS UNITED STATES**

Mobin-Uddin, Asma. *A Party in Ramadan*. Illustrated by Laura Jacobsen. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mill Press, 2009. 32 p. Ages 7-9. Anyone who has been caught between two cultures, wanting to have fun with friends from the mainstream culture while also remaining faithful to one's own culture, and especially religion, can identify with Leena, who has been invited to her best friend's birthday party which will include a pony ride, on the first Friday of Ramadan. Even though she is not yet old enough to have to fast every day of Ramadan, Leena wants to fast this day, because this is the day her Aunt Sana will be coming for a big family dinner after sundown. But she is also desperate to go to the party. Exercising her will-power, Leena manages to do both: she has fun at the party but resists the temptation to eat or drink. At the end of the day she feels thankful for God's many blessings, and not only has a wonderful family dinner, but also gets to eat the birthday cake that her friend brings over to her house. An author's note provides information about Ramadan and the larger meaning of fasting.

Nagda, Ann W. *Dear Whiskers*. Illustrated by Stephanie Roth. New York: Holiday House, c2000. 75 p. Ages 7-9. Jenny is discouraged when her second grade pen pal turns out to be a new student from Saudi Arabia who does not speak English very well, but as she works with her they slowly become friends. **FICTION. SAUDI ARABIA**

Oppenheim, Shulamith *The Hundredth Name*. Illustrated by Michael Hague. Honesdale, PA: Boyd's Mill, 1995 32 pp. Ages 4-8. An Egyptian boy tries to discover the hundredth name for Allah. **FICTION. EGYPT**

Sales, Francisc d'A. *Ibrahim*. Illustrated by Eulàlia Sariola; translated by Marc Simont. New York : Lippincott, c1989. 30 p. 1st American ed. Ibrahim is tempted to exchange his job in the old market place in Marrakesh for a freer life as a desert nomad, until a dream shows him that freedom is something carried in the heart. **FICTION. MOROCCO**

Shah, Indries. *The Farmer's Wife/La esposa del granjero*. Translated by Angelica

Villagran de Gonzalez. Illustrated by Rose Mary Santiago. Hoopoe Books, 2003. 34p. Ages 4-7. This is a retelling, by a classic writer and folklore collector, of a Sufi story about a farmer's wife who while trying to retrieve an apple from a hole in the ground receives help from an increasing number of animals. Humorous illustrations with traditional setting. **FICTION.**

#### **AFGHANISTAN**

#### **NON-FICTION**

Aggarwal, Manju. *I Am a Muslim : Manju Aggarwal Meets Abu Bakar Nazir.* Photography, Chris Fairclough; religious consultant, Jamal M.A. Solaiman. Series: My heritage. New York: F. Watts, c1985. 32 p. **ISLAM**

Ghazi, Suhaib Hamid. *Ramadan.* Illustrated by Omar Rayyan. New York: Holiday House, c1996. 29 p. Beautifully illustrated, this small book provides much good information about customs as it leads the reader through the day of a child. **ISLAM**

Fazio, Wende. *Saudi Arabia.* Chicago: Children's Press, 1999. 47 p. Ages 7-9. **SAUDI ARABIA**

Haskins, Jim. *Count Your Way Through the Arab World.* Illustrated by Dana Gustavson. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda, 1987. 26 p. Ages 5-9. **MIDDLE EAST; NORTH AFRICA**

Hermes, Jules. *The Children of Morocco.* Series: World's children. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, c1995. 48 p. **MOROCCO.**

Hussain, Shahrukh. *Mecca.* New York: Dillon Press, 1993. 46 p. [Holy Cities Series] **SAUDI ARABIA**

Marchant, Kerma. *Id-ul-Fitr.* Hove: Wayland, 1998. 32 p. Describes the end-of-Ramadan celebration as it is practiced around the world. **ISLAM**

Osborne, Mary Pope. *One World, Many Religions : The Ways We Worship.* 32 p. New York: Knopf, 1996. An illustrated introduction to comparative religion, discussing Judaism, Christianity, *Islam*, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. (National Council of Teachers of English Orbis Pictus Honor book) **ISLAM**

Pitkanen, Matti A. *The Children of Egypt.* Minneapolis: Carolrhoda, 1991. 40 p. Ages 8+. Begins with ancient Egypt and through pictures introduces contemporary children. **EGYPT**

Pluckrose, Henry A. *Egypt.* New York : New York: Franklin Watts, 1998. 30 p. A simple introduction to the geography, people, culture, and interesting sites of Egypt. **EGYPT**

Rumford, James. *Traveling Man: The Journey of Ibn Battuta, 1325-1354.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001. 32 p. Ages 7-10. Ibn Battuta, who started out in his home in Tangiers traveled from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Told in first person, this account gives just enough of

his journey to give life to his era for young readers, while the illustrations showing his route and the more specific information in the back would interest people of any age. **ISLAMIC WORLD**

Winter, Jeannette. *Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*. Orlando: Harcourt, 2005. 32p.

At the beginning of the war in Iraq in 2003 librarian Aliah Muhammad realizing that the library was in danger of bombing, saved 30,000 books, with the help of neighbors, by moving them to a safer place. Lovely pictures depict the heroic librarian and her shopkeeper neighbor, the library and the neighborhood. **IRAQ**

## **BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN**

### **IMAGINATIVE LITERATURE**

Carlsson, Janne. *Camel Bells*. Translated by Angela Barnett-Lindberg from the Swedish. Groundwood Books/Douglas McIntyre, 2002 (original 1985). The setting is the late 1970s, when the hope was that a new government would help eradicate poverty and corruption. Hajdar, an 11 year old village boy dreams of life beyond his little village, whenever he hears the nomads' camel bells. He finally gains his mother's permission to take the long trip over the mountain by bus to Kabul with his older friend, who has an uncle in the city, in order to sell his mother's produce. Life in the big city is exciting and different indeed, from village life, but Hajdar is caught in the civil war that is beginning between the Marxist, Soviet backed rebels and the supporters of the old, corrupt regime. **FICTION. AFGHANISTAN**

Carmi, Daniella. *Samir and Yonathan*. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2000. 183 p. Ages 9-11. A Palestinian and an Israeli boy become friends. Told from Samir's point of view, we see daily life in a Palestinian town with its dangers and hardships. Samir, who is wounded in an Israeli police raid ends up in a hospital in Israel. His interaction with the Israeli children in his hospital room include some hostile or scary episodes but his friendship with Yonathan ends on a hopeful note for understanding between Palestinians and Israelis. **FICTION. PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELI**

Dalokay, Vedat. *Sister Shako and Kolo the Goat: Memories of my Childhood in Turkey*. Translated by Guner Ener. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 1994. 96 p. Ages 10+. American Library Association's Mildred Batchelder Award for translated books. This affecting story develops the theme of friendship between a child and a wise old woman and her magical goat. Footnotes explain customs and beliefs. **FICTION. TURKEY**

Ellis, Deborah. *The Breadwinner*. Age 12+ Toronto: Groundwood, 2001. 170p. Parvana, age 11, must take on the role of breadwinner after her father is arrested during the Taliban era. Since as a girl she can not work in public, she disguises herself as a boy and earns her living in the streets of Kabul. **FICTION. AFGHANISTAN**

Ellis, Deborah. *Mud City*. Toronto: Groundwood, 2003. 164 p. Age 12+ In this sequel to *Parvana's Journey*, Parvana's friend Shauzia, who has fled from Afghanistan to Pakistan is

trying to survive on her own living in the streets. She prefers this existence to living in a refugee camp. Shauzia's efforts to take control of her own life against insuperable odds created by poverty and the world's indifference to the sufferings of refugees and children living in poverty, make this a powerful story. As with the previous book, Ellis provides information on how readers can help rebuild Afghanistan or can help street children through an organization to which Ellis donates her royalties. **FICTION. AFGHANISTAN / PAKISTAN**

Ellis, Deborah. *Parvana's Journey*. Toronto: Groundwood, 2002. 199p. Ages 12+ Graphically describes the suffering and courage of four Afghani children who are left homeless and parentless during the Afghani civil war. Hunger, fear of soldiers, and the ever-present danger of bombing or land-mines, one of which eventually takes young Leila's seemingly charmed life, are their constant companion as they make their way to the refugee camp where Parvana believes her mother to be. This is a strong anti-war book with a plea for helping refugees. **FICTION. AFGHANSITAN**

Fletcher, Susan. *Shadow Spinner*. New York: Atheneum, 1998. 219 p. Ages 10+ Historical fiction set in the time of Shehrazad.. When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old handicapped girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Shehrazad the stories which will save the queen's life. **FICTION. IRAN**

Hicylmaz, Gaye. *Against the Storm* . Boston: Little, Brown, 1992. 200 p. Ages 10+ . Twelve-year-old Mehmet's move from his Turkish village with flowers everywhere to a shanty-town existence in the city of Ankara brings him almost unbearable misery, but his desire to create a life for himself helps him to survive. Based on a story printed in a newspaper in Turkey. **FICTION. TURKEY**

Nye, Naomi Shehab *Habibi*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997. 259 p. When fourteen-year-old Liyanne Abboud, her younger brother, and her parents move from St. Louis to a new home between Jerusalem and the Palestinian village where her father was born, they face many changes and must deal with the tensions between Jews and Palestinians. **FICTION. PALESTINIANS**

Nye, Naomi Shehab *The Space Between Our Footsteps: Poems and Paintings from the Middle East*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994. 144 p. Ages 12+ A collection of poetry and full-color artwork from Middle Eastern and North African countries. Selected poetry from Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. **POETRY. MIDDLE EAST**

Nye, Naomi Shehab. *This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World*. New York: Four Winds Press, 1992. 212 p. Ages 12+ . A poetry anthology in which 120 poets from sixty-two different countries celebrate the natural world and its human and animal inhabitants. Includes poems from **SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, IRAQ, LEBANON. POETRY**

Schami, Rafik *Hand Full of Stars*. New York: Dutton, 1990. 195 p. Ages 12-15. A fourteen year old boy's daily life is changed as he becomes involved with a journalist he admires who opposes the government and runs an underground newspaper. Set in Syria, the story is loosely based on the author's childhood. Well developed and rounded characters show daily life

in Damascus from the recent past. **FICTION. SYRIA**

Schami, Rafik. *Damascus Nights*. New York: Scribner, 1993. 1995-paperback. 263 p. Salim, an old coachman and storyteller, transports the reader to Damascus, the author's childhood home. **FICTION. SYRIA**

Staples, Suzanne F. *Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind*. New York: Knopf, 1989. 240 p. 1990 Newbery Honor book. When eleven-year old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, she must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes. Vivid depiction of desert life and a loving family make this an engaging story. **FICTION PAKISTAN**

Staples, Suzanne F. *Haveli*. New York: Knopf, 1993. 259 p. Having relented to the ways of her people in Pakistan and married the rich older man to whom she was pledged against her will, Shabanu is now the victim of his family's blood feud and the malice of his other wives. A courageous and kind older relative guides Shabanu. Sequel to *Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind*. **FICTION PAKISTAN**

Stölzle, Joelle. *The Shadows of Ghadames*. New York: Delacorte, 2004. 119p. Translated from the French by Catherine Tamerson. Mildred L. Batchelder Award winner. Malinka, at 12, is not yet ready to relinquish her freedom to move around the city streets and go to school the way his brother Jassim does, but little by little she discovers and accepts the private world of the women who spend their days on the interconnected roof-tops of Ghadames. While her beloved father is away on a business trip, Malinka her mother and her mother's co-wife help a wounded stranger recover and the stranger in turn changes the lives of all three women as he teaches Malinka to read so that she may read the Koran herself. When her father returns, he supports Malinka in her dreams of seeing beyond the rooftops through reading and through a telescope that he gives her. The author, a French journalist researched life in late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ghadames, Lybia, where people today lead very different lives. **FICTION LYBIA**

Ural, Serpil. *Candles at Dawn*. Translated by Betty Toker. Ankara, Turkey: Güldikeni Yayinlari, 2000. 152 p. Through the eyes of two fictional contemporary girls, one from Turkey and one from Australia, readers are introduced to the World War I Galipoli campaign in Turkey which was fought on the Allies' side largely by Australian troops. Presents the subject in through a tone of peace reconciliation. Includes several black and white photographs from WWI. Publisher's address: Bayindir Sok. No: 14//17 / Yensisehir / Ankara – Turkey **FICTION TURKEY**

Yolen, Jane. *O Jerusalem* Illus. by: Thompson, John. New York: Scholastic, 1996. 28 p. A collection of poems in tribute to Jerusalem, in honor of the 3000th anniversary of its founding, celebrating its history as a holy city for three major religions. Includes a brief commentary on the poem next to it. **POETRY. CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM, JUDAISM**

**Nonfiction**

Abodaher, David J. *Youth in the Middle East : Voices of Despair*. New York: F. Watts, 1990. 111 p. Conversations with young people in the Middle East depict the political strife there and how it has affected their lives. Teenagers interviewed are from **EGYPT, ISRAEL, LEBANON, PALESTINIANS**.

*Afghanistan in Pictures* . Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 1997. 64 p. Ages 10-14. Describes vegetation, wildlife, history, government and cities. **AFGHANISTAN**

Ali, Sharifah Enayat. *Afghanistan*. Series: Cultures of the World. London: Marshall Cavendish, 1995. 128 p. Ages 9-12. Gives general background, arts, leisure, festivals. **AFGHANISTAN**

Ansary, Mir Tamim. *Afghanistan: Fighting for Freedom*. New York: Dillon Press, 1991. 127 p. A look at the politics, culture, geography, and history of Afghanistan. **AFGHANISTAN**

Ashabranner, Brent. *An Ancient Heritage: The Arab-American minority*. Photographs by Paul S. Conklin. New York: HarperCollins, 1991. 148 p. Discusses the cultural experience of Arab Americans and the history of Arab immigration to the United States. **ARAB AMERICANS**

Ashabranner, Brent. *Gavriel and Jemal : Two Boys of Jerusalem*. Photographs by Paul Conklin. New York : Dodd, Mead, c1984. 94 p. Though somewhat dated, this book is likely to be well researched and sympathetically written by an author who typically writes clearly and fairly about a wide range of cultures. **PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELI**

Batchelor, John. *The Euphrates*. John and Julie Batchelor. Series: Rivers of the world Publication Information: Hove, East Sussex : Wayland ; Morristown, N.J. : Silver Burdett, 1981. 67 p. **IRAQ**

Beshore, George. *Science in Early Islamic Culture*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1998. 64p. Starting with the 600s, scientific discoveries are described. Lively writing and illustrations make this a good introduction to the culture from which these scientific discoveries sprang. There was a 1988 edition for older children. This one is appropriate for grades 4-8. **ISLAM AND SCIENCE**

Bouchard, Elizabeth. *Benazir Bhutto: Prime Minister*. Woodbridge, CT: Blackbirch Press, 1992. 64 p. Examines the life of Pakistan's first woman prime minister against the background of the politics of her country. **PAKISTAN**

Boudalika, Litsa. *If you could be my friend: letters of Mervet Akram Sha'ban and Galit*

*Fink*. presented by Litsa Boudalika ; translated by Ariane Elbaz and Beatrice Khadige ; historical overview and glossary by Ariel Cohen. New York: Orchard Books, 1998. 118 p. Contains the correspondence between two girls, one an Israeli and the other a Palestinian, from August 1988 until their meeting in October 1991. Includes a brief history of their two peoples. **PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELI**

Brill, Marlene Targ. *Enchantment of the World: Algeria*. Chicago: Children's Press, 1990. 127 p. Discusses the geography, history, people, and culture of this large country in northern Africa. Ages 9+ **ALGERIA**

Diamond, Arthur. *Egypt, Gift of the Nile*. New York : Dillon, 1992. 127 p. Describes the land and people of Egypt, discussing both ancient and modern history, the geography, social life and customs, and folklore. **EGYPT**

Ferber, Elizabeth. *Yasir Arafat: A Life of War and Peace*. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook, 1995. 144 p. Ages 12+ Biography of Arafat presents his life story and information about the Arab and Israeli conflict. The author shows him as both popular leader among displaced Palestinians and reviled figure in the occupied territories after the Hebron massacre of 1994. Includes chronologies and black and white photographs. **PALESTINIANS**

Foster, Leila Merrell. *Iraq*. Series: Enchantment of the World. Chicago: Children's Press, 1990. 128 p. Ages 9-13. Introduces history, geography, culture and important people of Iraq. **IRAQ**

Foster, Leila Merrell. *Jordan*. Series: Enchantment of the World. Chicago: Children's Press, 1991. 128 p. Ages 9-13. Introduction to history, geography, culture, and important people of Jordan. **JORDAN**

Foster, Leila Merrell. *Lebanon*. Series: Enchantment of the World. Chicago: Children's Press, 1992. 128 p. Ages 9-13. Covers recent history and biographies of famous Lebanese. **LEBANON**

Foster, Leila Merrell. *Oman*. Series: Enchantment of the World. Chicago: Children's Press, 1999. 144 p. **OMAN**

Foster, Leila Merrell. *Saudi Arabia*. Series: Enchantment of the World. Chicago: Children's Press, 1993. 128 p. Ages 9-13 Introduce history, geography and culture and religion. **SAUDI ARABIA**

Fox, Mary Virginia. *Bahrain*. Series: Enchantment of the World. Chicago: Children's Press, 1992. 126 p. Ages 9-13. Introduces history, geography, culture, famous people. **BAHRAIN**

Fox, Mary Virginia. *Iran*. Series: Enchantment of the World. Chicago: Children's Press, 1991. 126 p. Ages 9-13. Introduces history, geography, culture, famous people. **IRAN**

Fox, Mary Virginia. *Tunisia*. Series: Enchantment of the World. Chicago: Children's Press, 1990. 126 p. Ages 9-13. Introduces history, geography, culture, famous people.

**TUNISIA**

Ganeri, Anita. *I Remember Palestine*. Series: Why We Left. Austin, TX: Raintree/Steck-Vaughn, 1995. 32 p. Ages 8-11. Material on the history, geography, and conditions at the time of publication in Palestine are covered, along with stories of refugee children whose parents have emigrated. **PALESTINIANS**

Gordon, Matthew. *Islam*. Series: World Religions. New York: Facts on File, 2001. 128p. Ages 10+ **ISLAM**

Harper, Paul. *The Arab-Israeli Conflict*. New York: Bookwright Press, 1990. 63 p. A history of conflict in the Middle East which has raged for most of the twentieth century.

**MIDDLE EAST**

Hassig, Susan M. *Iraq*. Series: Cultures of the World. London: Marshall Cavendish, 1992. 128 p. Ages 9-12. **IRAQ**

Herda, D. J. *The Afghan Rebels: The War in Afghanistan*. New York: F. Watts, 1990. 128 p. An account of the ten-year war in Afghanistan from its political origins to the Soviet withdrawal in 1989. **AFGHANISTAN**

Herder, Anna. *Yemen*. Series: Cultures of the World. London: Marshall Cavendish, 1999. 128 p. Ages 10+. **YEMEN**

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Celebrating Ramadan*. Illustrated by Lawrence Migdale. New York: Holiday House, 2001. Ages 8-11. Celebrating Ramadan provides a respectful, if superficial, introduction to Islam and Ramadan's importance in that religious practice. It can't help but be useful to librarians and teachers because of the rapidly increasing numbers of Muslims in the US and the scarcity of books for children on the subject (Kirkus Review). Provides an account through the eyes of a young Arab-American boy. Photographs focus on Ibrahim, the narrator, his family and the ways they celebrate Ramadan. **ARAB-AMERICANS; ISLAM**

Hughes, Libby. *Benazir Bhutto: From Prison to Prime Minister*. Minneapolis: Dillon Press, 1990. 128 p. A biography of Benazir Bhutto, discussing her childhood, education, imprisonment, personal life, her father's assassination, and her election to prime minister of Pakistan. **PAKISTAN**

Husain, Sharukh. *What Do We Know About Islam?* Series: What do we know about. New York: Peter Bedrick, 1997. 45 p. Ages 9-12. Discusses most important aspects of Islam, including life style, holidays dietary obligations, history, and pilgrimages. **ISLAM**

*Iran in Pictures*. Series: Visual Geography. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 1992. 64 p. Ages 10-13. **IRAN**

Janin, Hunt. *Saudi Arabia*. Series: Cultures of the World. London, Marshall Cavendish, 1992. 128 pp. Ages 9-12. History, geography, economy, language, and people are discussed. **SAUDI ARABIA**

*Jordan in Pictures*. Series: Visual Geography. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 1992. 64 p. Ages 10-12. **JORDAN**

Kagda, Falaq. *Algeria*. Series: Cultures of the World. London: Marshall Cavendish, 1997. 128 p. Emphasis is on everyday life. **ALGERIA**

Kerven, Rosalind. *Id-ul-Fitr*. Series: World of Holidays. Austin, TX: Raintree/Steck-Vaughn, 1997. 31 p. Ages 8-10. Briefly tells about the end of Ramadan holiday celebration. **ISLAM**

King, John. *A Family from Iraq*. Series: Families around the world. Austin, TX: Raintree/Steck-Vaughn, 1997. 32 p. Ages 8-10. Chronicles daily activities of a family in Iran and discusses the differences between older and younger generation. **IRAQ**

King, John. *Bedouin: Threatened Cultures*. Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1993. 48 p. Ages 9+. Describes the Bedouin way of life as it has survived for centuries in the Arab world and discusses threats to the continued existence of this nomadic people's culture. **BEDOUINS**

Kuklin, Susan. *Iqbal Masih and the Crusaders Against Child Slavery*. New York : H. Holt and Co., c1998. 133 p. An account of the former Pakistani child labor activist whose life and unexplained murder has brought to the attention of the world the evil of child bondage. **PAKISTAN**

*Lebanon in Pictures*. Series: Visual Geography. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 1992. 64 p. Ages 10-13. **LEBANON**

*Lybia in Pictures*. Series: Visual Geography. Minneapolis, MN: 1996. 64 p. Ages 10-13. **LYBIA**

Long, Cathryn J. *The Middle East in Search of Peace*. Millbrook, 1994. 64 p. Ages 10+. Explores the roots of Arab-Israeli conflict. **PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELI**

Macdonald, Fiona. *A 16<sup>th</sup> Century Mosque*. Illustrated by Mark Bergin. New York: Peter Bedrick, 1994. 48 p. Shows mosques built in Istanbul. **TURKEY; ISLAM**

Macaulay, David. *Mosque*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2003. 96p. Describes the building of a large mosque and other buildings associated with the mosque's educational and social functions in the sixteenth century in Turkey, at the height of the Ottoman empire. Explains religious functions and symbolism of different buildings and layouts, as well as the religious and secular life surrounding the mosque.

Marston, Elsa. *Lebanon: New Light in an Ancient Land*. Series: Discovering Our Heritage. New York: Dillon, 1994. 124 p. Ages 10-13. A well-organized, readable introduction to the history, geography, and people of Lebanon, together with material on the impact of Lebanese immigration on the United States. **LEBANON**

Marston, Elsa. *Muhammad of Mecca: Prophet of Islam*. Series: Book Report Biography. New York: Watts, 2001. 128 p. Ages: 10 14. This biography is readable, straightforward, and quite satisfactory. In addition to the expected life story, Marston also presents basic information on Muslim beliefs and practices, and gives a brief history of Islam after Muhammad's death. There are many black-and-white photographs and reproductions (though some are too small or too dark) (SLJ 9/01). **ISLAM**

Moktefi, Mokhtar. *The Arabs in the Golden Age*. Illustrated by Veronique Ageorges. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook, 1992. 64 p. Ages 9-11. Covers the 8<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. **ARABS**

Moktefi, Mokhtar. *The Rise of Islam*. Illustrated by Sedat Tosun ; English translation(from French) by Nan Buranelli. Morristown, N.J.:Silver Burdett Press, c1986. 64 p. **ISLAM**

Moskovitch, Arlene. *Egypt, the Culture. Egypt, the Land. Egypt, the People*. New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 1999. 32 p. each. Ages 9-11. Each of these books touches on both ancient and modern life, but to different degrees determined by the subject matter. For example, Culture is dominated by ancient times and religious beliefs. A briefer section mentions modern religious practices, art, music, dance, and other forms of popular culture. By contrast, Land concentrates primarily on how the land is used today. (SLJ 70/00)

Mozeson, Isaac. *Jerusalem Mosaic: Voices from the Holy City*. New York: Four Winds Press, c1994. 160 p. Ages 12+ These are interviews with Palestinian and Israeli teenagers. **PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELI**

Naff, Alixa. *The Arab Americans*. New York: Chelsea House, 1988. 109 p. SLJ reviewer of newer *Arab American Voices* and *Arab American Encyclopedia* claims that this earlier work is better and more complete. **ARAB AMERICANS**

O'Shea, Maria. *Kuwait*. Series: Cultures of the World. Marshall Cavendish, 1999. 128 p. Ages 10+. **KUWAIT**

Ousseimi, Maria. *Caught in the Crossfire: Growing Up in a War Zone*. New York: Walker, 1995. 120 p. Uses incidents from *Lebanon*, El Salvador, Mozambique, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Washington, D.C., to examine the effect on children of growing up in a war zone. **LEBANON**

*Pakistan in Pictures*. Series: Visual Geography. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 1996. 64 p. Ages 10-14. **PAKISTAN**

Parker, David L. *Stolen Dreams: Portraits of Working Children* with Lee Engfer and Robert Conrow. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Co., 1998. 112 p. Photographs and text document working children especially in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Mexico. Includes a chapter on Iqbal Masih, the child labor activist from Pakistan. **PAKISTAN**

Rajenda, Vijeya and Gisela Kaplan. *Iran*. Series: Cultures of the World. London: Marshall Cavendish, 1992. 128 p. Ages 9-12. Basic introduction to Iran includes everyday life and problems the country was facing (in 1992). **IRAN**

Ramulshah, Mano. *Pakistan*. New York: Viking, 1992. 32 p. Ages 8-13. Presents famous landmarks, social and political life, and history. **PAKISTAN**

Robinson, Francis. Ed. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996. 328 p. Ages 14+. Outstanding illustrations, this work explores the history and practices of Islam and its social/economic ramifications **ISLAM**

Sanders, Renfield. *Iran*. Series: Places and Peoples of the World. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, c1990. 112 p. Describes the history, geography, government, society, economy, culture, and religion of Iran. **IRAN**

Sanders, Renfield. *Libya*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2000. 100 p. Surveys the geography, history, economy, culture, and people of Libya, the fourth largest country in Africa whose terrain is more than ninety-seven percent desert. **LIBYA**

Scoones, Simon. *The Sahara and Its People*. Thomson Learning. 1993. 48 p. Ages 8+ Color photographs and text. Explores the environment and lifestyles found in the vast and numerous regions of the Sahara. **NORTH AFRICA**

Solecki, John. *Hosni Mubarak*. New York : Chelsea House, c1991. 111 p. A biography of the current president of Egypt. **EGYPT**

Stanley, Diane. *Saladin Noble Prince of Islam*. New York: HarperCollins, 2002. 52 p. Through rich illustrations and beautiful text Stanley depicts the life of this 12<sup>th</sup> century Turkish sultan and ruler of Jerusalem in the time of the crusades. Stanley depicts Saladin's noble character as she describes the conflicts between the Christians and Muslims during the crusades.

Spencer, William. *Islamic States in Conflict*. New York: F. Watts, 1983. 90 p. Describes the history of conflict among Middle Eastern tribes and nations before and since the birth of Islam. **ISLAM**

Spencer, William. *The Land and People of Turkey*. Series: Portraits of the Nations Series. New York: Lippincott, 1990. 208 p. **TURKEY**

Stotsky, Sandra. *The Arab Americans*. Contribution by Daniel P. Moynihan. Chelsea House, 1999. 110 p. Ages 9-12. A revision of a title formerly appearing in "The Peoples of North America" series (Chelsea), this edition has been minimally but carefully changed,

primarily to reflect the current political situation in the Middle East and to update the biographical sketches of prominent Arab Americans. The clearly written text includes a historical sketch of the Arabs' culture and history of immigration. (SLJ 01/99) **ARAB AMERICANS**

Suhaib, Hamid Ghazi. *Ramadan* Illus. by Omar Rayyan. New York: Holiday House, 1996. 32p. After explaining the meaning of Ramadan the author takes us through one full day during Ramadan through the experiences of Hakeem, a little boy in a multiethnic community, possibly in the United States, starting with the predawn meal, showing how hard it is for Hakeem to see other children eat their lunches and take drinks of water, showing the closeness of the family, the evening meal after sunset and prayers at the mosque. The book ends with Eid ul-Fitr, the end of Ramadan celebration. **ISLAM**

Swisher, Clarice. Ed. *The Spread of Islam*. Series: Turning Points in World History. San Diego: Greenhaven, 1998. 240 p. Ages 14+. Describes the origin and growth of Islam in Arabia, the East-West spread of Islam, the spread of Islamic art and thought, the spread of factions within Islam, and the modern-day resurgence of Islam. **ISLAM**

Viesti, Joseph F. *Celebrate in South Asia*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1996. 32 p. Hall, Diane. Describes religious festivals and sacred days celebrated in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Burma, and Nepal. **PAKISTAN**

Wakin, Eric. *Asian Independence Leaders*. New York: Facts on File, 1997. 160 p. Profiles nine men, including Sun Yat-sen of China, Gandhi of India, Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam, and Emilio Aguinaldo of the Philippines, who struggled to free their respective countries from colonial rule or monarchy. (also **Mohammed Ali-Jinnah of Pakistan**) **PAKISTAN**

Weston, Mark. *The Land and People of Pakistan*. Armonk, N.Y.: HarperCollins, 1992. 242 p. An introduction to the history, geography, government, economy, culture, and people of Pakistan. **PAKISTAN**

Willis, Terry. *Lybia*. Series: Enchantment of the World. Chicago: Children's Book Press, 1999. 144 p. Ages 9+. **LYBIA**

Wolf, Bernard. *If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem*. Written and photographed by Bernard Wolf. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1998. 64 p. Surveys the history of the city of Jerusalem and its importance to three of the world's major religions: **JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM**

Wormser, Richard. *American Islam: Growing Up Muslim in America*. New York: Walker, 1994. 130 p. Ages 13+. **ISLAM**

Yusufali, Jabeen. *Pakistan: An Islamic Treasure*. Minneapolis: Dillon Press, 1990. 127 p. Discusses the history, people, religions, food, cultural heritage, lifestyle, education, sports, industries, major cities, politics, historic sites, festivals, and holidays of Pakistan. **PAKISTAN**

## Folklore

Bushnaq, Inea. *Arab Folktales*. New York : Pantheon Books, 1986. 386p. This collection reflects values important to diverse Arab cultures and would be a good resource for adults. Bushnaq identifies values portrayed in the stories such as generosity, hospitality, the importance of family as a social unit; pride; independence; self-sufficiency; sacrifice, and wisdom. Understanding the values that the stories often exemplify, will help in understanding the children's versions of Arab folktales. Stories include fairy tales, animal tales, and stories of the beloved stock character, Djuha.

The following are contemporary illustrated versions of folk and fairy tales:

Alderson, Brian. *The Arabian Nights, or, Tales told by Sheherezade during a thousand nights and one night*. Illustrated by Michael Foreman. New York: Morrow Junior, 1995. 191 p.

Baltuck, Naomi. *Apples From Heaven : Multicultural Folktales About Stories and Storytellers*. North Haven, Conn. : Linnet Books, 1995. 143 p.  
A collection of international folktales about storytelling and the role of stories in transmitting information, history, and values. The Middle Eastern stories includes tales from **AFGHANISTAN, IRAN, TURKEY**.

Ben-Ezer, Ehud. *Hosni the Dreamer: An Arabian Tale* Illustrated by Uri Shulevitz. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1997. 32 p. Ages 6-8. Hosni, a shepherd living in the desert, finally realizes his dream of traveling to the city where he spends his gold dinar in a way which changes his life forever.

Climo, Shirley. *The Persian Cinderella*. Art by Robert Florczak. New York: HarperCollins, 1999. 32 p. Ages 7-10

Cohen, Barbara. *Seven Daughters and Seven Sons*. By Barbara Cohen & Bahija Lovejoy. New York: Atheneum, 1982 A retelling of a traditional Arabic tale in which a young woman disguises herself as a man and opens up a shop in a distant city in order to help her impoverished family. Based on the folktale that has been part of the oral tradition of Iraq. (C) **IRAQ**

Hickox, Rebecca. *The Golden Sandal: A Middle Eastern Cinderella Story*. ; Illustrated by Will Hildebrand. New York: Holiday House, 1999. Instead of a fairy grandmother, Maha, the Cinderella figure, is helped by a fish and her slipper is a pair of clogs. **IRAQ**

Jackson, A. E. *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves and Other Stories*. Derridale, 1994. 104 p. Ages 10+

Kerven, Rosalind. *Aladdin*. Illustrated by Misty Niles. London: DK, 2000. 48 p. Ages 7-10. Simple retellings of "Aladdin and the Lamp," "The Garden of Enchantments," and "Ali Baba." The selections are framed by two brief chapters that provide background information about Shahrazad and Arabian society. The print is large and easy to read, and the lovely color

illustrations have an Asian flavor that suits the stories nicely. (SLJ 8/00)

Kherdian, David. *The Rose's Smile : Farizad of the Arabian Nights* with pictures by Stephano Vitale. Publication Information: New York : Holt, 1997.

Kimmel, Eric A. *The Tale of Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp: A Story from the Arabian Nights*. Illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. Publication Information: New York: Holiday House, 1996. 32 p. Ages 6-9. A retelling of the adventures of Aladdin who, with the aid of a genie from a magic lamp, fights an evil sorcerer and wins the hand of a beautiful princess.

Kimmel, Eric A. *The Three Princes: A Tale from the Middle East* . Illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. New York : Holiday House, 1994. 32 p. Ages 6-9. A princess promises to marry the prince who finds the most precious treasure.

Kimmel, Eric. A. *Rimonath of the Flashing Sword: A North African Tale* Illustrated by Omar Rayyan. Holiday House, 1995. 32 p. Ages 5-9. An Egyptian version of "Snow White."

McVitty, Walter. *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*. Illustrated by Margaret Early. New York: Abrams, 1989. 30 p. Ages 6-9. The famous story is illustrated in the style of tenth-century Persian miniatures.

Philip, Neil. *The Arabian Nights* Illustrated by Sheila Moxley.. New York: Orchard, 1994. Ages 8+

Oppenheim, Shulamith. *Iblis*. Illus. by: Ed Young, San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1994. 32 p. An Islamic version of the story of Adam and Eve and the fall from Paradise. Ages 8+

Shepard, Aaron. *Forty Fortunes : A Tale of Iran*. Illustrated by Alisher Dianov. New York : Clarion Books, c1999. 32 p.

Travers, P. L. Illus. *Two Pairs of Shoes*. Illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon. New York: Viking, 1980. 40p. Retellings of two Middle Eastern folktales, in each of which the either shoes or clothes reveal something about their owner. ALA Notable, 1981.

Yeoman, John. *The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor*. Illustrated by Quentin Blake. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. 119 p. Ages 10-14.

Video: *Children of Heaven*. Majidi, director. This 1998 Academy Award Best Foreign Film nominee from Iran presents the positive values of Islam in people's daily lives. Ali, 10 and Zhara, his first grader sister, share the only pair of sneakers between them in order for both of them to be able to attend school, after older brother loses little sister's just repaired shoes at the market. Kindness, loyalty, desire to do the right thing without bragging, honesty, and perseverance are highlighted in this moving and beautifully photographed film. Ages 9+

<http://www.freep.com/jobspage/arabs.htm>

This is an information al web site by the *Detroit Free Press*. The site is organized around 100

commonly asked questions about Arabs, Arab Americans, customs, religion, language, and family.

<http://www.hoopoekids.com>

This is a link to Hoopoe Books a site for children's books by Indries Shah, a classic Afghani writer.

## RESOURCES FOR BOOKS ABOUT ARAB AND MUSLIM CULTURES

**Bookbird: World of Children's Books** [International Board on Books for Youth] 4/yr. Articles on the literature of different countries, often by people from those countries. Great resource for international/global education, especially for children's literature researchers.

Bishop, Rudine Sims *Kaleidoscope: A Multicultural Booklist for Grades K - 8*. National Council of Teachers of English, 1994, 1997.

Gebel, Doris J. *Crossing Boundaries*. United States Board on Books for Youth. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2005/6 (in Press)

Khorana, Meena. *Africa in Literature for Children and Young Adults: An Annotated Bibliography of English Language Books*. Greenwood Pr., 1995

Khorana, Meena. *The Indian Subcontinent in Literature for Children and Young Adults: An Annotated Bibliography of English-language Books*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1991.

Kruse, Ginny Moore *Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults, 1980-1990*. 3d ed. By Ginny Moore Kruse and Kathleen Horning. Madison, WI: Cooperative Children's Book Center, 1991

Kruse, Ginny Moore *Multicultural Literature or Children and Young Adults, Vol. 2, 1991-1996*. By Ginny Moore Kruse and Kathleen T. Horning. Madison, WI: Cooperative Children's Book Center, 1997

Miller-Lachmann, Lyn. *Global Voices, Global Visions: A Core Collection of Multicultural Books*. Bowker, 1995.

Miller-Lachmann, Lyn. *Our Family, Our Friends, Our World: An Annotated Guide to Significant Multicultural Books for Children and Teenagers*, Bowker, 1992.

Norton, Donna . *Introduction to Multicultural Literature*. Merrill, 2001

Rochman, Hazel. *Against Borders: Promoting Books for a Multicultural World*. American Library Association, 1993.

Stan, Susan. *World Through Children's Books*. United States Board on Books for Youth. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2002.

Temple, Charles, Martinez, Miriam, Yokota, Junko, Naylor, Alice. *Children's Books in Children's Hands*. 3rd ed New York: Allyn and Bacon, 2005.

Tomlinson, Carl M. *Children's Books from Other Countries*. United States Board on Books For Youth Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 1997.