

Annotated Bibliography

Middle Eastern Lending Library

- Abbas, Jailan. *Festivals of Egypt*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1995.
The book covers ten of the most popular festivals in Egypt with ethnographic and historical details. Recipes, pictures, games, and songs are included for the festivals focusing on both Islamic and Christian celebrations.
- Abdel-Fattah, Randa. *Does My Head Look Big in This?* New York, NY: Orchards Books, 2005.
In a refreshing take on a coming-of-age novel, Amal Mohamed Nashrullah Abdel-Hakim, a Palestine-Muslim-Australian learns to deal with her hyphenated identity. Her decision to go “full-time,” as in wear a hijab in a private elite high school, has consequences she learns to deal with as she embraces her Islamic identity. She discovers that confronting issues of difference—social, cultural, and religious—helps her define her interactions with her friends and her family in hilarious and sassy ways.
- Al-Abdullah, Her Majesty Queen Rania. *The King’s Gift*. London: Michael O’Mara Books Limited, 2000.
This modern fable tells the story of a curious young schoolgirl who is guided by the King in an exciting search for the royal crown. The girl eventually finds the crown but in a form very different to the one she had originally imaged in the form of a gift.
- Alexander, Sue. *Nadia the Willful*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1983.
In this illustrated picture book, Nadia, a strong-willed Bedouin girl, copes with the disappearance of her oldest brother in the desert.
- Ashabranner, Brent. *Gavriel and Jemal: Two Boys of Jerusalem*. New York, NY: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1984.
This book for middle-grade readers is about Gavriel (an Israeli Jew) and Jemal (a Palestinian Arab) who live in Jerusalem. The daily life of each boy is illustrated with photographs depicting the Jewish and Arab neighborhoods of the old city. Although the boys never meet, there is hope that the new generation will solve the divisive conflict between Arabs and Jews.
- Bacon, Josephine. *Cooking the Israeli Way*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 2005.
This cookbook provides traditional Israeli recipes that highlight the food and ingredients of Israel that have come from different cooking traditions all over the world. The recipes combine influences from the Middle East with those of Europe and the United States. The book also includes wonderful pictures and

ethnographic information about the region, as well as its holidays and culinary traditions.

Bahous, Sally. *Sitti and the Cats: A Tale of Friendship*. Boulder, CO: Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 1997.

Bahous' text is a Palestinian folk tale about Sitti, an elderly woman, whose daily life is illustrated with some ethnic information. Geared toward elementary-aged children, the book relates the magical tale of Sitti and the cats, focusing on issues of community, generosity, selflessness, and friendliness. The text includes a brief vocabulary list for young readers at the end of the book, as well as occasional side notes within the text with references to language, customs, and information about Palestine.

Behnke, Alison. *Cooking the Mediterranean Way*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 2005.

This cookbook provides traditional Mediterranean recipes that highlight the food and ingredients of the Mediterranean. The book also includes wonderful pictures and ethnographic information about the regions, holidays, and culinary traditions.

Behnke, Alison. *Cooking the Middle Eastern Way*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 2005.

This cookbook provides traditional Middle Eastern recipes that highlight the food and ingredients of the Middle East, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Armenia, and Turkey. The book also includes wonderful pictures and ethnographic information about the regions, holidays and culinary traditions.

Ben-Ezer, Ehud. *Hosni the Dreamer*. New York: Farrar Straus, 1997.

Hosni the shepherd has always wanted to see the big city across the desert. One day he gets his chance. This colorful story, based on an old Arabian folktale, is here given an exquisite pictorial interpretation.

Bohorfoush, Joan (et. al.). *Scarves of Many Colors: Muslim Women and the Veil*. Washington, D.C.: Teaching For Change, 2000.

This book with accompanying audio CD provides a curriculum about veiling and an accompanying radio documentary featuring Muslim women. There are two lessons focusing on stereotyping of veiled women and the experience of veiled women. These lessons are followed by lessons that encourage students to role play as international tribunal members and as interviewers. The lessons do not address non-Arab Muslim women or the tenants of Islamic dress.

Burgoyne, Diane Turnage. *Amina and Muhammad's Special Visitor*. Middle East Gateway Series, 1982. This storybook gives a picture of family life in an urban center of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is hoped that both that story and the authentic, detailed illustrations of everyday life in al-Khobar will help dispel

the prevalent, but erroneous impression that most children in Arabia live the life of the traditional Bedouin.

Carmi, Daniella. *Samir and Yonatan*. Trans. Yael Lotan. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc., 2002.

This middle grades book for young adults focuses on a Palestinian boy, Samir, who lives in the West Bank and whose brother has been killed by Israeli soldiers. After a knee-shattering fall, Samir find himself in an Israeli hospital ward among the people he blames for his brother's death. The introspective narration reveals Samir's reactions, his interaction with the Israeli children in the ward, and his friendship with one of the boys. Despite his growing friendship and new understanding of the Israeli children, the Palestinian hardships under Israeli occupation are never far from his mind.

Climo, Shirley. *The Egyptian Cinderella*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 1989.

A Grecian slave girl, Rhodopis, is rescued by the Pharaoh from her life of servitude in Egypt. In this Cinderella story, Rhodopis' shoe is carried by a falcon to the very lap of the Pharaoh, who wants to make its owner his queen.

Climo, Shirley. *The Persian Cinderella*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 1999.

In this Persian Cinderella story set during the Iranian New Year, Settareh steals the heart of the Prince. Despite the interference from her jealous stepsisters, Settareh succeeds with the help of a magic pot and a misplaced anklet.

Clinton, Cathryn. *A Stone in My Hand*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2002.

The setting for this young adult novel is Gaza City in 1988-89 when it was under Israeli military occupation. Malaak, an eleven year old Palestinian girl, is the novel's narrator. One day Malaak's father goes missing, presumably imprisoned in an Israeli jail. The girl then largely stops talking to her family and instead she communicates with her pet bird, Abdo. Every day she climbs to the rooftop of her building to look for her missing parent. Malaak eventually breaks her silence when she learns her father is dead. Later, she begins to converse with the ghost of her dead father. As tensions escalate between Palestinians and Jews, Malaak encounters more emotional challenges when Hamid, her oldest brother joins a hate group. Clinton's novel is valuable for young readers in its portrayal of war and occupation in Gaza City.

Cohen, Barbara. *The Secret Grove*. New York, NY: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1985.

An Israeli and Jordanian boy meet in an orange grove and make a secret pact. This elementary book teaches that hatred and racial stereotypes can be overcome.

Cornell, Kari and Nurçay Türkoğlu. *Cooking the Turkish Way*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 2005.

This cookbook provides traditional Turkish recipes that highlight the food and ingredients of Turkey. The book also includes wonderful pictures and ethnographic information about the region, as well as its holidays and culinary traditions.

Ellis, Deborah. *The Breadwinner*. Toronto, Ontario: Groundwood Books / House of Anasi Press, 2006.

The Breadwinner is the first in a trilogy of books by Ellis following the young heroine Parvana. Perfect for middle grades, this book details the difficulty of life for eleven-year-old Parvana in the early years of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Parvana rarely leaves home and is not allowed to attend school, shop at the market, or play in the streets. When the Taliban takes her father away, Parvana becomes the breadwinner of the family by disguising herself as a young boy.

Ellis, Deborah. *Mud City*. Toronto, Ontario: Groundwood Books / House of Anasi Press, 2006.

The third part of Ellis' trilogy (*The Breadwinner* and *Parvana's Journey*) following the young heroine Parvana, *Mud City* is a book for middle grades. In this book, Parvana's best friend Shauzia flees from the hardships of Afghanistan and attempts to survive on the streets of Peshawar, Pakistan. Driven to find a way to take control of her own life, Shauzia's desperate struggle to survive is illustrated in graphic detail.

Ellis, Deborah. *Parvana's Journey*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2002.

This novel is the story of a young teenage girl, Parvana, left alone to survive in a war-ravaged Afghanistan. Separated from the rest of her family, and disguised as a young boy to avoid the Taliban, she travels alone in her quest to find her family. Along the way, she adopts a little baby and later befriends a young boy and girl. Making their way through fields dotted with landmines and scrounging for food, they learn the art of survival.

Forman, James. *My Enemy, My Brother*. New York, NY: Hawthorn Books, 1969.

The story of Dan begins in a German concentration camp, relating the horror of his imprisonment and the difficult aftermath of his release following the end of the war. Three young Jewish survivors of a concentration camp make their way from Warsaw to an Israeli kibbutz only to be caught up in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Despite his friendship with an Arab family, whose village is ultimately destroyed by Zionist terrorists, Dan can only watch the inexorable march toward an outcome that means triumph for some and disaster for others. A thoughtful book best suited to older children.

Foy, Don. *Festivals of the World: Israel*. Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Gareth Stevens Publishing, 1997.

This highly accessible children's book incorporates wonderful pictures, recipes,

and craft ideas in order to explain festivals in Israel. Ethnographic details, geographic and religious information, as well as information about the festivals themselves are included in the book.

Ghazy, Randa. *Dreaming of Palestine: A Novel of Friendship, Love & War*. New York, NY: George Braziller Publisher, 2002.

First-time (and 15 year old) novelist Randa Ghazy blends poetry and prose into a narrative about a group of Palestinian teenage friends coping with war-torn life. The characters are unified by a need for family and for human beings to be able to live together. This teen novel vividly presents a Palestinian perspective of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Goodwin, Katharine. *In Search of Cinderella: A Curriculum for the 21st Century*. Fremont, California: Shen's Books, Inc., 2000.

This book is a curriculum for teachers providing activities, information, and lesson plans on Cinderella stories from across the globe. Goodwin addresses twelve Cinderella stories from India, Russia, Mexico, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and the United States. The approach of the curriculum material is geared toward reading and writing proficiency, gender issues, multiculturalism, values, social studies, research, and geography.

Gulevich, Tanya. *Understanding Islam and Muslim Traditions*. Detroit, Michigan: Omnigraphics, 2004.

This book is a wonderful introduction to the religious practices, celebrations, festivals, beliefs, customs, and calendar system of the world's Muslim communities. The book contains an overview of Islamic history and geography, as well as a helpful breakdown on how Ramadan is celebrated in different countries around the world.

Hakki, Yahya. *The Lamp of Umm Hashim and Other Stories*. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2004.

This book contains four stories by Yahya Hakki. *The Lamp of Umm Hashim* looked upon as one of the most important pieces of writing in the so-called renaissance of Arabic literature in the 20th century.

Harris, Rosemary. *Zed*. Boston, MA: Faber and Faber, 1990.

This protagonist of this book for young adults is a Lebanese-American boy living in England. His mixed heritage, along with that of his extended family points out the variety of religious, ethnic, and national combinations in the Middle East. From the child perspective of Thomas/Zed, the reader tries to make sense of the divisions between family members and the political tensions in the Middle East when the boy and his father are held prisoner by a group desiring Arab rights in the West.

Heide, Florence Parry and Judith Heide Gilliland. *The Day of Ahmed's Secret*. London, England: Penguin Books, 1997.

- This young-adult picture book follows a boy through the streets of Cairo as he travels home. The book is illustrated with realistic watercolors, capturing the ambience of Cairo.
- Heide, Florence Parry and Judith Heide Gilliland. *The House of Wisdom*. New York, NY: DK Ink, 1999.
In this picture book, Ishaq, the son of a translator to the Caliph of ancient Baghdad, searches for books for the library known as the House of Wisdom.
- Heide, Florence Parry and Judith Heide Gilliland. *Sami and the Time of the Troubles*. New York, NY: Clarion, 1992.
The civil war in Lebanon is witnessed and experienced through the eyes of a young boy. Exceptional water colors in this picture book illustrate family life during war time.
- Hickox, Rebecca. *The Golden Sandal: A Middle Eastern Cinderella Story*. New York, NY: Holiday House, 1998.
Maha, the Cinderella character in this book, is the daughter of a fisherman destined to serve her stepmother and step sister. After a lucky encounter with a talking, red fish and a lost sandal, Maha finds her way to a henna bridal party and into the bride's brother's heart.
- Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Celebrating Ramadan*. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2001.
Islam and the special month of Ramadan are taught through the personalized daily life of a young Muslim boy named Ibraheem who lives in Princeton, New Jersey. Family life and prayer help young adult readers understand the importance of the *Qur'an* for Muslims.
- Hussain, Yasmeen, Nestor B. Bande and Nestor F. Lacson. *Colors of Saudi Arabia: Children's Artwork for National Saudi Day*. Bayan Gardens Publications, Saudi Arabia, 2006. How does it feel to be young and living in Saudi Arabia? Let the class of Bayan Gardens School tell you in pictures created by their own hands, and in detailed descriptions as narrated by Ali, the fun-loving storyteller you will find guiding you throughout the book.
- Johnson-Davies, Denys. *Aladdin and the Lamp*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1995.
The famous tale from *The Thousand and One Nights* is told here in six chapters. Aladdin's exciting adventure contains a wicked sorcerer, whom Aladdin must defeat, as well as a magic genie, who aids in Aladdin's attempt to marry the Sultan's daughter.
- Johnson-Davies, Denys. *Animal Tales of the Arab World*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1995.
The fourteen short tales in this book enumerate wise, foolish, sad, and funny

stories about an array of animals, including donkeys, dogs, lions, turtles, elephants, rabbits, and crows. Similar to Aesop's fables, these tales provide moral lessons.

Johnson-Davis, Denys. *Folk Tales of Egypt*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1993.

Seven stories adapted from Egyptian folk tales are presented in this book for middle school readers. These entertaining tales are in the fantastic vein of the Arabian Nights.

Johnson-Davis, Denys. *Goha*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1993.

Goha, the beloved character of Middle Eastern folklore, is represented in this book of stories for young readers. Goha is a wise fool who rides a donkey and together the pair encounters many funny adventures.

Johnson-Davis, Denys. *Stories from the Arab Past*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1997.

Twenty-one stories adapted from works of classical Arabic literature provide young readers with pictures of life in the Arab world. Sultans, princes, merchants, pilgrims, husbands and wives populate these entertaining tales.

Johnson-Davis, Denys. *Stories of the Caliphs: The Early Rulers of Islam*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1997.

After the death of the Prophet Muhammad, there followed a list of successors who lead the areas of the Muslim world. This book relates twenty-seven stories about nine of these Caliphs whose empires spread over a large part of the world.

Johnson-Davis, Denys. *Tales from Morocco*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1995.

This book for middle-school readers contains six Moroccan stories involving animals. These cultural tales offer wisdom and provide insight into human nature.

Johnson-Davis, Denys. *Tales from the Sudan*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1998.

Six Sudanese folk tales about love, friendship, good and evil, and honesty are found in this book for middle-school readers

Johnson-Davis, Denys. *The Voyages of Sinbad*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1994.

This entertaining book relates the four voyages of Sinbad, the sailor from Baghdad. The book is filled with adventure and danger, as Sinbad encounters dangerous creatures and must contend with being stranded on an island.

Kessler, Cristina. *One Night: A Story from the Desert*. New York, NY: Putnam, 1995.

This picture book tells the story of Muhamad, a Tuareg boy of the Sahara, who is entrusted with the care of a goat herd. When one of the goats safely gives birth, Muhamad becomes a man in the eyes of his family.

Khan, Rukhsana. *Muslim Child: Understanding Islam through Stories and Poems*.

Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1999.

Muslim children learn to follow the path of Islam in this illustrated collection of

stories and poems. This informative book will educate readers both young and old about Islamic customs, dress, prayer, and the life of Prophet Muhammad.

- Khan, Rukhsana. *The Roses in My Carpets*. Ontario: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1988.
For a young refugee living with loss and terror-filled memories, time is measured by the next bucket of water, the next portion of bread, the next call to prayer. This is a story of a boy whose heart still longs for freedom, independence and safety. Even though life is terribly fragile, the strength to endure grows out of need, and the strength to dream comes from within.
- Kristensen, Preben and Fiona Cameron. *We Live in Egypt*. Hove, U.K.: Wayland, 1986.
Various portraits of real-life Egyptians are depicted in this non-fiction book. Egyptian society is shown to be diverse and modern. Many color photographs accompany the biographical sketches.
- Laird, Elizabeth. *A Little Piece of Ground*. Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books, 2006.
Laird's young adult book geared toward the middle grades makes the everyday fears and experiences of living in Palestine under Israeli occupation. The life of Karim Aboudi and his family are related as they deal with strict curfews imposed upon them. The piece of ground Karim finds is a vacant lot where he and his friends try to play soccer. The book has moments of humor, but is also direct and daring.
- Levine, Anna. *Running on Eggs*. Chicago, IL: Front Street/Cricket Books, 1999.
This young adult novel centers on an Israeli-Arab friendship between two girls on a track team in Israel. Sharing the same mountaintop, Karen lives in an Israeli kibbutz separate from Yasmine who lives in a Palestinian village. The war looms close by across the border in Lebanon. Karen's father has died some time ago in the Lebanese war and the family still copes with loss. Karen uses running to cope with her emotional pain. Meanwhile the track team is preparing for an important competition in Spain. Yasmine sadly learns she has to leave the track team because her coach will not allow her to run in a dress skirt. Yasmine secretly helps Karen train for the race, and the girls run together in the "no man's land" separating their communities. The loyalty between these two girls lies at the heart of this moving novel.
- Lewin, Ted. *The Storyteller*. New York, NY: Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard Books, 1998.
Set in Fez, Morocco, this picture book leads readers on a journey through the city with Abdul and his storytelling grandfather. The pair explores the various jobs and activities of the city, encompassing textile workers, falconers, tanners, date sellers, and weavers. The final type of job examined is that of the grandfather and his art of storytelling. The text introduces a few Arabic words and includes a brief glossary.
- Lloyd, Norris. *The Village that Allah Forgot: A Story of Modern Tunisia*. New York, NY: Hastings House Publishers, 1973.

This book for middle-elementary aged children focuses on post-independence Tunisia in 1956 and a tiny village's challenges. The young Tunisian protagonist, Ali tries to make life a little better in his isolated community in the 1960s. The book contains a helpful glossary as well.

Mahdi, Ali Akbar (ed). *Teen Life in the Middle East*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. This book for teen readers provides depictions of teen life in several Middle Eastern countries. The book highlights information that teen readers most want to know, such as family life, traditional and non-traditional cuisine, schooling, social life, recreation, religious practices and entertainment.

Marston, Elsa. *Figs and Fate: Stories about Growing Up in the Arab World Today*. New York, NY: George Braziller, 2005.

These five short stories bring alive the world of five young Arab teens in Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq. Through the war zone, the desolation and the pathos, they dream of tackling new challenges, building kinship with their own and with strangers.

Marston, Elsa. *Free as the Desert Wind*. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1996.

Omar, a young Sudanese boy, accompanies his father on a camel drive from Sudan to Egypt. They encounter bandits and lack of water. After making friends with a camel, Omar has a difficult time selling the camel at the end of the journey.

Matthews, Mary. *Magid Fasts for Ramadan*. New York, NY: Clarion Books, 1996.

This five-chapter book for elementary-aged children recounts the fictional tale of Magid's attempt to fast during Ramadan with realistic introductions to modern Muslim life. Although Magid is considered too young to fast, he wants to anyway. The book explains what Ramadan is and why Muslims fast during the festival, as well as various traditions and customs about the celebration.

Marx, David F. *Ramadan*. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2002.

This book introduces children to the Muslim holiday of Ramadan with colorful photos and simple text. There are vocabulary words and pronunciation guides included.

Matze, Claire Sidhom. *The Stars in My Geddoh's Sky*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1999.

This illustrated children's book is about a young boy named Alex who is visited by his Arabic-speaking grandfather in America. During his grandfather's stay, Alex learns about his relative's Middle Eastern homeland.

McCarthy, Justin and Carolyn McCarthy. *Who Are the Turks? A Manual for Teachers*. New York, NY: The American Forum for Global Education, 2003.

This teacher's manual is a rich resource for teaching students about Turkey and the Turkish people. Materials include lessons, photos, illustrations, recipes, poetry and stories.

Mobin-Uddin, Asma. *My Name is Bilal*. Honesdale, Pennsylvania: Boyds Mills Press, Inc., 2005.

Mobin-Uddin's book for elementary-aged children discloses the struggles of a Muslim-American boy. From his unusual name to his sister's head scarf, Bilal has many challenges at school. However, he learns to stand up for himself and claim his own identity. The book ends with an English translation of the Muslim call to prayer.

Morris, Ann and Lilly Rivlin. *When Will the Fighting Stop? A Child's View of Jerusalem*. New York, NY: Atheneum, 1990.

A young Jewish boy living in Jerusalem observes the multi-ethnicity of his city and wonders why its citizens cannot live in peace. Black and white photographs illustrate this story.

Mortenson, Greg and Susan L. Roth. *Listen to the Wind*. New York: Dial, 2009.

This is the story of Greg Mortenson's first building project in Pakistan as told through the eyes of the children of the village of Korphe.

Musallam, Basim. *The Arabs*. London, England: Collins/ Harvill Press, 1983.

This book for advanced readers is a document of Arab life and thought. Rich color photographs give a strong visual picture of people who consider themselves as Arabs. The accompanying text is scholarly and especially historical. Various chapters are entitled "The Making of Arabs," "Ways of Faith," "The Muslim City," "Women and the Family," and "The Arabs Now" (among other titles). Because the book was published in the early 1980s, some of the historical and cultural data about the Middle East may have changed or is no longer pertinent.

Noble, Iris. *Mahmud's Story: The Journal of a Palestinian Refugee*. New York, NY: Julian Messner, 1976.

Geared toward young adults, Noble's book is based on the true story of a young Palestinian refugee. Through the protagonist, Mahmud, the reader follows the trials and struggles of refugees and their desires to regain a homeland.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Habibi*. New York, NY: Simon Pulse, 1997.

Nye's young adult novel describes a Palestinian-American family's move from America to the West Bank. The young narrator, Liyana, is fascinated with her new observations of Palestinian village life. She describes the harsh treatment inflicted upon Palestinians as she learns about the language, the culture, and her new environment. Liyana's struggles continue when she makes friends with a Jewish boy. The novel asks the tough questions about Jewish-Palestinian relations.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Sitti's Secrets*. New York, NY: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1997.

This beautifully illustrated picture book, chronicles young Mona's trip to

- Palestine from the United States to visit her Grandmother. Through Mona's visit the reader learns about life in Palestine and village activities. She comes to recognize the connection between people in all parts of the world regardless of barriers of language, nation, or time.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab. *The Space Between Our Footsteps*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998.
More than a hundred poets and artists from nineteen Middle Eastern countries explore the themes of homeland, exile, childhood, love, war, peace, sorrow, joy and many more. Poems are paired with glorious full-color paintings to make an anthology that is exquisite, startling, heartbreaking, humorous, and joyful.
- Oppenheim, Shulamith. *The Hundredth Name*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 1995.
Salah, an Egyptian boy living in Egypt, wants to make his sad camel happy. The Camel learns Allah's hundredth name in this picture book about Muslim faith.
- O'Shea, Maria. *Festivals of the World: Saudi Arabia*. Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Gareth Stevens Publishing, 1999.
This highly accessible children's book incorporates wonderful pictures, recipes, and craft ideas in order to explain festivals in Saudi Arabia. Ethnographic details, geographic and religious information, as well as information about the festivals themselves are included in the book.
- O'Shea, Maria. *Festivals of the World: Turkey*. Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Gareth Stevens Publishing, 1999.
This highly accessible children's book incorporates wonderful pictures, recipes, and craft ideas in order to explain festivals in Turkey. Ethnographic details, geographic and religious information, as well as information about the festivals themselves are included in the book.
- Richard, Adrienne. *The Accomplice*. Boston, MA: Little Brown, and Company, 1973.
An American boy, Billy, while in Israel with his archaeologist father, becomes involved in an act of violence by a Palestinian youth. After making friends with a young Arab laborer on the site, Billy becomes an unwitting accomplice to a terrorist plot. This book for young adults contemplates the protagonist's moral dilemma reflecting sympathy for the desperation of the Palestinians.
- Robert, Na'ima bint and Diana Mayo. *Journey Through Islamic Art*. London, England: Mantra Lingua, 2005.
A young girl takes a tour of the world of Islamic art while wearing a magical, flying cloak. This picture book is richly illustrated with Islamic art and architecture.
- Rodseth, Lars (et. al). *Arab World Mosaic: A Curriculum Supplement for Elementary Teachers*. Dearborn, MI: The ACCESS Cultural Arts Program.
This resource book for elementary school teachers is comprised of six lesson

units for teaching about the Arab world. Students will learn about both ancient and modern Arab culture in these lessons. Topics broadly discussed include holidays, plants and animals, family, and community, all in an Arabic context. There are also several stories adapted from Arabic folktales which students will read and analyze, thereby developing their cultural awareness and critical skills.

Rumford, James. *Traveling Man: The Journey of Ibn Battuta, 1325-1354*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

The historical travels of Ibn Battuta are condensed and richly illustrated in this book for young readers. This famous 14th century traveler left Morocco and traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Rumford, James. *Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad*. New York: Roaring Book Press, 2008 Ali lives in Baghdad, a dangerous place undergoing difficult times. He loves soccer and loud music, but most of all he loves practicing calligraphy, the ancient art of drawing letters. He is inspired by Yakut, the mater calligrapher who lived in Baghdad some 800 years ago, also in a time of war. This is their story.

Schami, Rafik. *A Hand Full of Stars*. Trans. Rika Lesser. New York, NY: Puffin Books, 1992.

Written in diary format, this book for young adults follows a teenage boy in Damascus, Syria from age fourteen to eighteen. The book begins with the desires of an impoverished youth, who dreams of becoming a journalist. He writes about his friends, his neighborhood, his family, and his school. As the book progresses, the political problems of the country emerge as teachers disappear, people move away, and his father is arrested and tortured. Ultimately, the narrator becomes involved in an underground newspaper, putting himself in real danger. The book provides a penetrating view of urban Syria early in the years of political suppression.

Shea, Pegi Deitz. *The Carpet Boy's Gift*. Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House Publishers, 2003.

Nadeem, a Pakistani boy is sold by his parents (for a loan) to a carpet factory. One day he meets a boy named Iqbal who is a former child slave laborer. Iqbal gives him a pen as a tool for education, telling Nadeem to go to school and learn to read and write. He also tells Nadeem about a new law abolishing child slavery. Later, Iqbal's death serves as an impetus for the slave children to free themselves from their bondage. The fictional character of Iqbal is based on an actual Pakistani boy who escaped child slavery. Additional resources at the back of the book are useful for more information about child labor issues.

Shefelman, Janice. *A Peddler's Dream*. Austin, TX: Houghton Mifflin, 1992.

A Lebanese man travels to Austin, Texas in search of fortune. This is a picture book with a happy ending, as he eventually triumphs, making his dreams come true.

Silverman, Erica. *Raisel's Riddle*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999.

In this Cinderella story, the young Jewish protagonist Raisel manages to attend the Purim festival with the help of a beggar woman. She captures the heart of the rabbi's son with a riddle, emphasizing the importance of learning.

Stamaty, Mark Alan. *Alia's Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004.

In this graphic picture book for upper-elementary-aged children, the true-life story of Alia Muhammad Baker is told. As the chief librarian of the Central Library in Basra, Iraq, Alia Muhammad Baker is worried about the books in the library as the war in Iraq draws closer to Basra. Government officials ignore her pleas for help, so she and her neighbors smuggle over 30,000 books to safety.

Villios, Lynne W. *Cooking the Greek Way*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 2005.

This cookbook provides traditional Greek recipes that highlight the food and ingredients of Greece, including ancient and modern recipes along with those influenced by other cultures. The book also includes wonderful pictures and ethnographic information about the region, as well as its holidays and culinary traditions.

Winter, Jeanette. *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt, 2005.

In this picture book for elementary readers, a librarian struggles to save books in war-torn Basra, Iraq. This book imparts a love of literature for young readers.

Zoui, Lonnie Dai. *Musical Arabic: Chants, Rhythms and Music for Learning Arabic at Any Age* (with CD). Albuquerque, NM: Vibrante Press, 2004.

This book introduces students to the Arabic language through Arabic songs and sing-a-longs, thereby laying the groundwork for further language study.