

Picture Books

Ben-Ezer, Ehud. **HOSNI THE DREAMER** (xxf)
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.



Edwards, Michelle. **CHICKEN MAN** (xxf)
Each time Chicken Man is moved into a new job on the kibbutz, someone else wants to take that job instead, and the chickens suffer as a consequence.

Heide, Florence Parry. **THE DAY OF AHMED'S SECRET** (xxf)
Ahmed makes his rounds through the busy streets of Cairo delivering cooking gas to customers, carrying with him a special secret he is about to share with his family.

London, Jonathan. **ALI, CHILD OF THE DESERT** (xxf)
On a trip to the Moroccan market town of Rissani, Ali becomes separated from his father during a sandstorm.



Nye, Naomi Shihab. **SITTI'S SECRETS** (xxf)
A young girl describes a visit to see her grandmother in a Palestinian village on the West Bank.

Waldman, Neil. **THE NEVER-ENDING GREENNESS** (xxf)
When his family comes to live in Israel after the end of World War II, a young boy begins planting and caring for trees, a practice that spreads across the whole country. Jews around the world honor this heritage with a yearly tree-planting celebration called Tu b'Shvat.

Fiction

Alexander, Sue. **BEHOLD THE TREES** (xf)
A land once protected by all sorts of wonderful trees is reduced over time by war and environmental neglect to desert, until new inhabitants plant trees and slowly make Israel bloom again.

Clements, Andrew. **EXTRA CREDIT** (xf)
As letters flow back and forth between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan, across cultural and religious divides, sixth grader Abby, 10 year-old Amira, and 11 year-old Sadeed begin to speak and listen to each other.

Heide, Florence Parry and Judith Heide Gilliland. **THE HOUSE OF WISDOM** (xf)
Ishaq, the son of the chief translator to the Caliph of ancient Baghdad, travels the world in search of precious books and manuscripts and brings them back to the great library known as the House of Wisdom.

Heide, Florence Parry and Judith Heide Gilliland. **SAMI AND THE TIME OF THE TROUBLES** (xf)
A 10-year-old Lebanese boy goes to school, helps his mother with chores, plays with his friends, and lives with his family in a basement shelter when bombings occur and fighting begins on his street.

Matthews, Mary. **MAGID FASTS FOR RAMADAN** (xf)
Magid, an 8-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.

Mobinuddin, Asma . **A PARTY IN RAMADAN** (xf)
Although Leena is too young to fast each day during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, she decides to fast on a Friday that her aunt will be visiting. But Leena has a dilemma when she receives an invitation to a party which happens to fall on that same Friday.



Orlev, Uri. **LYDIA QUEEN OF PALESTINE** (xf)
A young Rumanian Jewish girl describes her childhood in pre-World War II Romania, her struggles to understand her parents' divorce amid the chaos of the war, and her life on a kibbutz in Palestine. Based on the life of the Israeli poet Arianna Haran.

Rumford, James. **SILENT MUSIC: A STORY OF BAGHDAD** (xf)
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.

Folktales

Alderson, Brian. **THE ARABIAN NIGHTS** (x398.25)
An illustrated collection of stories from the "Arabian Nights," including Sinbad, Ali Baba, and Aladdin.

Balouch, Kristen. **THE KING AND THE THREE THIEVES: A PERSIAN TALE** (x398.22)
King Abbas appears to get caught up in the schemes of three thieves but he has a few tricks of his own and ultimately saves his kingdom from starvation.

Climo, Shirley. **THE PERSIAN CINDERELLA** (x398.255)
A retelling of the traditional Persian tale in which Settareh, neglected and abused by her stepmother and stepsisters, finds her life transformed with the help of a little blue jug.

Demi. **THE HUNGRY COAT** (x398.2)
After being forced to change to a fancy new coat to attend a party, Nasrettin Hoca tries to feed his dinner to the coat, reasoning that it was the coat that was the invited guest.

Freedman, Florence. **BROTHERS: A HEBREW LEGEND** (xx398.25694)
Hard times on adjoining farms bring about parallel acts of kindness and a celebration of "how good it is for brothers to live together in friendship."

Hickox, Rebecca. **THE GOLDEN SANDAL : A MIDDLE EASTERN CINDERELLA STORY** (x398.2567)
An Iraqi version of the Cinderella story in which a kind and beautiful girl who is mistreated by her stepmother and stepsister finds a husband with the help of a magic fish.

Jabbari, Ahmad. **AMOO NORUZ AND OTHER PERSIAN STORIES** (x398.2)
A collection of four tales in both English and Farsi.



Laird, Elizabeth and Shelley Fowles. **A FISTFUL OF PEARLS AND OTHER TALES FROM IRAQ-** (x398.2567)
Mythical creatures, enchanted encounters, and wise magicians are brought together in this collection of Iraqi folk tales.

Lattimore, Deborah Nourse. **ARABIAN NIGHTS: THREE TALES** (x398.25)
A retelling of three Arabian nights tales; Aladdin, The Queen of the Serpents, and The Lost city of Ubar.

Nadimi, Suzan. **THE RICH MAN AND THE PARROT** (x398.255)
In this retelling of a tale by Rumi, a parrot tricks a wealthy merchant into setting him free.

Palacek, Libuse. **THE MAGIC GROVE** (x398.255)
A retelling of a traditional Persian tale in which a kind act is rewarded in a very special way.

Schwartz, Howard. **NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM: 3,000 YEARS OF JEWISH STORIES** (x398.25694)
A collection of 11 Jewish folktales and legends from around the world, all centering on the city of Jerusalem.

Schwartz, Howard. **THE DIAMOND TREE: JEWISH TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD** (x398.25694)

A collection of Jewish traditional tales from such countries as Iraq, Turkey and Yemen.

Shah, Idries. **THE CLEVER BOY AND THE TERRIBLE, DANGEROUS ANIMAL** (x398.2)

A Sufi teaching tale of a boy who helps the townspeople of a neighboring village deal with their fear of something that they have mistaken for a terrible, dangerous animal.

Shah, Idries. **THE SILLY CHICKEN** (x398.2)

A Sufi teaching tale of a chicken that has learned to speak as people do and spreads an alarming warning, which causes the townspeople to panic without first considering the messenger.

Smith, Chris. **ONE CITY, TWO BROTHERS** (x398.256)

To settle a dispute between two brothers, King Solomon tells a tale of how Jerusalem came to be founded.

Tarnowska, Wafa'. **THE SEVEN WISE PRINCESSES: A MEDIEVAL PERSIAN EPIC** (x398.25)

A lonely king, inspired by seven mysterious portraits, invites seven princesses to live with him; their stories entertain and educate him in the ways of a wise ruler.

Van Woerkom, Dorothy. **ABU ALI; THREE TALES OF THE MIDDLE EAST** (xx398.256)

Abu Ali is fooled by his friends, tricks them in turn, and even fools himself in 3 humorous and easy to read stories of trickery.

Wolkstein, Diane. **THE RED LION: A TALE OF ANCIENT PERSIA** (x398.25)

Before he can be crowned King of Persia, Azgid must prove his courage by fighting the Red Lion.

Young, Ed. **WHAT ABOUT ME?** (x398.2)

A young boy determinedly follows the instructions of the Grand Master in the hope of gaining knowledge, only to be surprised as how he acquires it. Based on a Sufi tale.

Nonfiction

Behnke, Alison. **COOKING THE MIDDLE EASTERN WAY** (x641.5956)

An introduction to the cooking of the Middle East featuring such traditional recipes as baghlava and falafel. Also includes information on the history, geography, customs and people of the region.



Demi. **MUHAMMED** (x921)

Picture book Introduction to the life of Muhammad and the basic tenets of the Islamic faith.

Demi. **RUMI: WHIRLING DERVISH** (x921 Jalal Al-Din Rumi)

Picture book introduction to the 13th century mystical poet.

Dolphin, Laurie. **NEVEH SHALOM / WAHAT AL SALAM , OASIS OF PEACE** (x303.482)

Text and photos present the lives of two boys, one Jewish and one Arab, who attend school in a unique community near Jerusalem. For current update see: www.nswas.org



Haskins, Jim . **COUNT YOUR WAY THROUGH THE ARAB WORLD** (x956)

Uses the numbers from one to ten to introduce concepts about Arab countries and Arab culture.

see also:

Haskins, Jim. **COUNT YOUR WAY THROUGH IRAN** (x955);
COUNT YOUR WAY THROUGH ISRAEL (x956.9)

Mortenson, Greg. **LISTEN TO THE WIND: THE STORY OF DR. GREG AND THREE CUPS OF TEA** (x954.9)

The villagers of a remote Himalayan village save the life of Greg Mortenson after he gets lost while climbing K2, the world's second tallest mountain. He vows to return and build a school for them.

Rumford, James. **TRAVELING MAN- THE JOURNEY OF IBN BATTUTA** (x921)

An account of a 14th century traveler's incredible 75,000 mile journey throughout the Islamic world.

Stamaty, Mark Alan. **ALIA'S MISSION: SAVING THE BOOKS OF IRAQ** (x020.92)

The heroic story, in graphic novel format, of an Iraqi librarian's fight to save 30,000 books from the Basra Central Library before it was destroyed in the war

Stanley, Diane. **SALADIN: NOBEL PRINCE OF ISLAM** (x921)

Picture book biography of an Islamic warrior of the 12th century revered for his generosity, chivalry and wisdom.

Winter, Jeannette. **THE LIBRARIAN OF BASRA : A TRUE STORY FROM IRAQ** (x020.92)

When war comes, Alia Muhammad Baker, the librarian of Basra, fears the library will be destroyed, so she asks government officials for help. But they refuse, which means Alia must take matters into her own hands to protect the books that she loves.



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WINDOWS to THE MIDDLE EAST and BEYOND

books for children

