

MEOC

Middle East Outreach Council

Middle East Book Award Winners

Established in 2000, the Middle East Book Awards recognize exemplary books for children and young adults that contribute meaningfully to an understanding of the Middle East and its component societies and cultures. Books are judged on the authenticity of the portrayal of a Middle Eastern subject, as well as on their characterization, plot, and appeal for the intended audience. Awards are given in three categories: Picture Book, Youth Literature, and Youth Non-Fiction.

PICTURE BOOK CATEGORY

2019 Award Winners

A DROP OF THE SEA by Ingrid Chabbert, illustrated by Guridi (Kids Can Press, 2018).

RIDING A DONKEY BACKWARDS: WISE AND FOOLISH TALES OF MULLA NASRUDDIN retold by Sean Taylor & the Khayaal Theatre, illustrated by Shirin Adl (Candlewick, 2019).

2019 Honorable Mentions

TOMORROW by Nadine Kaadan (Lantana Publishing, 2018).

MY GRANDMA AND ME by Mina Javaherbin, illustrated by Lindsey Yankey (Candlewick, 2019).

2018 Award Winner

TATA'S EARRINGS by Desirée Caldéron de Fawaz (Yogi Impressions, 2017).

2018 Honorable Mention

CRESCENT MOONS AND POINTED MINARETS by Hena Khan, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini (Chronicle Books, 2018).

2017 Award Winner

LOST AND FOUND CAT: THE TRUE STORY OF KUNKUSH'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY by Doug Kuntz & Amy Shrodes, illustrated by Sue Conelison (Crown Books for Young Readers, 2017).

2017 Honorable Mentions

MY BEAUTIFUL BIRDS by Suzanne Del Rizzo (Pajama Press, 2017).

STEPPING STONES: A REFUGEE FAMILY'S JOURNEY by Margriet Ruurs, translated by Falah Raheem, illustrated by Nizar Ali Badr (Orca Book Publishers, 2016).

2015 Award Winner

WHEN THE ANIMALS SAVED EARTH: AN ECO-FABLE retold by Alexis York Lumbard, illustrated by Demi (Wisdom Tales, 2015).

2015 Honorable Mentions

NEW MONTH/NEW MOON by Allison Ofanansky, photographs by Eliyahu Alpern (Kar-Ben Publishing, 2014).

THE OLIVE TREE by Elsa Marston, illustrator Claire Ewart (Wisdom Tales, 2014).

THE STORY OF HURRY by Emma Williams, illustrated by Ibrahim Quraishi (Seven Stories Press, 2014).

2014 Award Winner

RAZIA'S RAY OF HOPE by Elizabeth Suneby, illustrated by Suana Verelst (Citizen Kid, 2013).

2013 Award Winner

HANDS AROUND THE LIBRARY: PROTECTING EGYPT'S TREASURED BOOKS by Karen Leggett Abouraya, illustrated by Susan L. Roth (Dial Books, 2012).

2013 Honorable Mention

GOLDEN DOMES AND SILVER LANTERNS: A MUSLIM BOOK OF COLORS by Hena Khan, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini (Chronicle Books, 2012).

2012 Award Winners

FOLKTALES FROM TURKEY: FROM AGRI TO ZELVE by Serpil Ural, illustrated by Dilara Arin (Citlembik Publications, 2012).

THE WOODEN SWORD: A JEWISH FOLKTALE FROM AFGHANISTAN by Ann Redisch Stampler, illustrated by Carol Liddiment (Albert Whitman & Company, 2012).

2012 Honorable Mention

WHAT'S THE BUZZ: HONEY FOR A SWEET NEW YEAR by Alison Ofanansky, photographs by Eliyahu Alpern. (Kar-Ben Publishing, 2011).

2011 Award Winner

MIRROR by Jeannie Baker (Candlewick Press, 2010).

2011 Honorable Mentions

THE SECRET MESSAGE by Mina Javaherbin, illustrated by Bruce Whatley, (Disney/Hyperion Books, 2010).

TIME TO PRAY by Maha Addasi, illustrated by Ned Gannon (Boyd's Mills Press, 2010).

2010 Award Winner

HOW MANY DONKEYS: AN ARABIC COUNTING TALE by Margaret Read MacDonald, and Nadia Jameel Taibah, illustrated by Carol Liddiment (Albert Whitman & Company, 2009).

2010 Honorable Mention

KINGS AND CARPENTERS: ONE HUNDRED BIBLE LAND JOBS YOU MIGHT HAVE PRAISED OR PANNED by Laurie Coulter and Mary Newbigging (Annick Press, 2010).

2009 Award Winner

THE BUTTER MAN by Elizabeth Alalou and Ali Alalou (Charlesbridge Publishing, 2008).

2009 Honorable Mention

THE GRAND MOSQUE OF PARIS: A STORY OF HOW MUSLIMS RESCUED JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST by Karen Gray Ruelle and Deborah Durland DeSaix (Holiday House, 2009).

2008 Award Winner

SILENT MUSIC: A STORY OF BAGHDAD written and illustrated by James Rumford (Roaring Brook Press, 2008).

2008 Honorable Mentions

FOUR FEET, TWO SANDALS by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed, illustrated by Doug Chayka (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2007).

THE BEST EID EVER by Asma Mobin-Uddin, illustrated by Laura Jacobsen (Boyd's Mills Press, 2007).

2007 Award Winner

ONE CITY, TWO BROTHERS by Chris Smith, illustrated by Aurélie Fronty (Barefoot Books, 2007).

2007 Honorable Mentions

COUNT YOUR WAY THROUGH IRAN by Jim Haskins and Kathleen Benson, illustrated by Farida Zaman (Millbrook Press, 2007).

THE RICH MAN AND THE PARROT retold by Suzan Nadimi, illustrated by Ande Cook (Albert Whitman & Company, 2007).

2006 Award Winner

LUGALBANDA, THE BOY WHO GOT CAUGHT UP IN A WAR by Kathy Henderson, illustrated by Jane Ray (Candlewick Press, 2006).

2006 Honorable Mention

MYSTERY BOTTLE by Kristen Balouch (Hyperion Books for Children, 2006).

2005 Award Winner

ALIA'S MISSION: SAVING THE BOOKS OF IRAQ by Mark Alan Stamaty (Alfred A. Knopf, 2004).

2005 Honorable Mentions

THE LIBRARIAN OF BASRA by Jeanette Winter (Harcourt, 2005).

THE TRAVELS OF BENJAMIN OF TUDELA by Uri Shulevitz (Farrar Traus Giroux, 2005).

2004 Award Winner

MUHAMMAD written and illustrated by Demi (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2003).

2002 Award Winner

CELEBRATING RAMADAN by Diane Hoyt Goldsmith, photographs by Lawrence Migdale (Holiday House, 2002).

2001 Award Winner

TRAVELING MAN: THE JOURNEY OF IBN BATTUTA, 1325-1354 written and illustrated by James Rumford (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001).

2000 Award Winner

THE HOUSE OF WISDOM by Florence Parry Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland, (DK Publishing, Inc., 1999).

2000 Honorable Mention

THE STORYTELLERS by Ted Lewin (New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1998).

YOUTH LITERATURE CATEGORY

2019 Award Winners

DARIUS THE GREAT IS NOT OKAY by Adib Khorram (Dial Books, 2018).

NOWHERE BOY by Katherine Marsh (Roaring Brook Press, 2018).

2019 Honorable Mention

THE LAST WATCHMAN OF OLD CAIRO by Michael David Lukas (Spiegel & Grau, 2018).

2018 Award Winner

THE MAP OF SALT AND STARS by Jennifer Zeyneb Joukhadar (Touchstone, 2018).

2018 Honorable Mentions

ESCAPE FROM ALEPPO by N. H. Senzai (Simon & Schuster, 2018).

THE GIRL FROM ALEPPO: NUJEEN'S ESCAPE FROM WAR TO FREEDOM by Nujeen Mustafa & Christina Lamb (Harper Wave, 2017)

2017 Award Winner

SALT HOUSES by Hala Alyan (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017).

2017 Honorable Mentions

BALCONY ON THE MOON: COMING OF AGE IN PALESTINE by Ibtisam Barakat (Macmillan 2016).

THE GIRL IN GREEN by Derek B. Miller (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017).

SAINTS & MISFITS by S. K. Ali (Salaam Reads, 2017).

2016 Award Winners

WHEN THE MOON IS LOW by Nadia Hashimi (William Morrow, 2016).

DARE TO DISAPPOINT: GROWING UP IN TURKEY by Ozge Samanci (Farrar Strauss Giroux for Young Readers, 2015).

2016 Honorable Mention

IT AIN'T SO AWFUL FALAFEL by Firoozeh Dumas (Clarion Books, 2015).

2015 Award Winner

THE TURTLE OF OMAN by Naomi Shihab Nye (Greenwillow Books, 2014).

2015 Honorable Mentions

LIKE WATER ON STONE by Dana Walrath (Delacorte Press, 2014).

REBELS BY ACCIDENT by Patricia Dunn (Sourcebooks, Inc., 2014).

2014 Award Winner

FEAR OF BEAUTY: A NOVEL by Susan Froetschel (Seventh Street Books, 2013).

2013 Award Winner

THE GIRL WHO FELL TO EARTH: A MEMOIR by Sophia Al-Maria (Harper Perennial, 2012).

2013 Honorable Mentions

A GAME FOR SWALLOWS: TO DIE, TO LEAVE, TO RETURN by Zeina Abirached (Graphic Universe, 2012).

A FORT OF NINE TOWERS: AN AFGHAN FAMILY STORY by Qais Akbar Omar (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2012).

2012 Award Winners

ALIF THE UNSEEN by G. Willow Wilson (Grove Press, 2012).

JERUSALEM CHRONICLES FROM THE HOLY CITY by Guy Delisle (Drawn and Quarterly, 2012).

2011 Award Winner

WHERE THE STREETS HAD A NAME by Randa Abdel-Fattah (Scholastic Press, 2010).

2010 Award Winner

SHOOTING KABUL by N.H. Senzai (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2011).

2009 Award Winner

WANTING MOR by Rukhsana Khan (Groundwood Books, 2009).

2009 Honorable Mentions

A BOTTLE IN THE GAZA SEA by Valérie Zenatti (Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 2008).

EXTRA CREDIT by Andrew Clements (Atheneum Books, 2009).

2008 Award Winner

THE APPRENTICE'S MASTERPIECE: A STORY OF MEDIEVAL SPAIN by Melanie Little (Annick Press, 2007).

2007 Award Winner

TASTING THE SKY: A PALESTINIAN CHILDHOOD by Ibtisam Barakat (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007).

2006 Award Winner

A LITTLE PIECE OF GROUND by Elizabeth Laird (Haymarket Books, 2006).

2005 Award Winner

FIGS AND FATE by Elsa Marston (George Braziller, 2005).

2003 Award Winner

19 VARIETIES OF GAZELLE by Naomi Shihab Nye (Greenwillow Books, 2002).

2002 Award Winner

THE BREADWINNER by Deborah Ellis (Groundwood, 2002).

2001 Award Winner

SAMIR AND YONATAN by Daniella Carmi (Scholastic, 2000).

2000 Award Winner

HABIBI by Naomi Shihab Nye (Simon and Schuster, 1997).

YOUTH NON-FICTION CATEGORY

2019 Award Winner

THE UNWANTED: STORIES OF THE SYRIAN REFUGEES by Don Brown (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2018)

2019 Honorable Mention

IBN BATTUTA: THE JOURNEY OF A MEDIEVAL MUSLIM (A CONCISE LIFE SERIES) by Edouardo Albert (Kube Publishing, 2019).

2018 Award Winner

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST (VIEWPOINTS ON MODERN WORLD HISTORY) by Martin Gitlin (Greenhaven Press, 2018).

2018 Honorable Mentions

AFGHANISTAN (ENCHANTMENT OF THE WORLD, SECOND SERIES) by Ruth Bjorklund (Childrens Press, 2018).

YOUNG PALESTINIANS SPEAK: LIVING UNDER OCCUPATION by Anthony Robinson & Annemarie Young (Interlink Publishing, 2017).

2017 Award Winner

A REFUGEE'S JOURNEY FROM SYRIA and **A REFUGEE'S JOURNEY FROM AFGHANISTAN** by Helen Mason (Leaving My Homeland series; Crabtree Publishing, 2017).

2017 Honorable Mentions

A REFUGEE'S JOURNEY FROM IRAQ by Helen Rodger (Leaving My Homeland Series; Crabtree Publishing, 2017).

ROADMAP TO SUCCESS: INSPIRING JOURNEYS OF TEN ICONIC COPTIC LEADERS by Shahira Abdel Shahid (Archway Publishing, 2016).

2016 Award Winners

GOLDA MEIR: A STRONG, DETERMINED LEADER by David A. Adler (Puffin, 2015).

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS (DISCOVER) by Isabel and Imogen

Greenberg (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2016).

2015 Award Winner

CHILDREN GROWING UP WITH WAR by Jenny Matthews (Candlewick Press, 2014).

2015 Honorable Mentions

CHILDREN OF THE STONE: THE POWER OF MUSIC IN A HARD LAND by Sandy Tolan (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015).

OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS: EGYPT, edited by Margaret Haerens (Greenhaven Press, 2015).

2013 Award Winners

THE ARAB WORLD THOUGHT OF IT: INVENTIONS, INNOVATIONS, AND AMAZING FACTS by Saima Hussain (Annick Press, 2013).

THE COMPASSIONATE WARRIOR: ABD EL-KADER OF ALGERIA by Elsa Marston (Wisdom Tales, 2013).

2012 Award Winners

BEYOND BULLETS: A PHOTO JOURNAL OF AFGHANISTAN by Rafal Gerszak (Annick Press, 2012).

BYE BYE BABYLON: BEIRUT 1975-1979 by Lamia Ziade (Interlink Publishing Group, 2012).

2012 Honorable Mention

LIVING THROUGH THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR SINCE 1948 by Alex Woolf (Heinemann-Raintree, 2012).

2011 Award Winners

THE GENIUS OF ISLAM: HOW MUSLIMS MADE THE MODERN WORLD by Bryn Barnard (Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2011).

HOW TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL IN 60 DAYS OR LESS by Sarah Glidden (Vertigo, 2011).

2010 Award Winner

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SAUDI ARABIA by James Wynbrandt (Checkmark Books, 2010).

2010 Honorable Mention

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MUSLIM-AMERICAN HISTORY by Edward E. Curtis IV, editor (Facts on File, 2010).

2009 Award Winner

THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION by Brendan January (Twenty-First Century Books, 2008).

2009 Honorable Mentions

THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF ARABIA by Mary Beardwood (Stacey International Publishing, 2009).

THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY; POLITICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL & CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES by Dona J. Stewart (Routledge, 2008).

2008 Award Winner

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN FROM THE MUSLIM WORLD by Natalie Maydell and Sep Riahi, illustrated by Heba Amin (Global Content Ventures, 2007).

2007 Award Winners

IRAQ (MODERN WORLD NATION SERIES) by Dale Lightfoot, Charles F. Gritzner, series editor (Chelsea House Publishers, 2007).

OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS: IRAN (OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS SERIES) Laura K. Egendorf, editor (Greenhaven Press, 2006).

2006 Award Winner

THE ILLUSTRATOR'S NOTEBOOK by Mohieddin Ellabbad (Groundwood Books, 2006).

2006 Honorable Mentions

GREAT MUSLIM PHILOSOPHERS AND SCIENTISTS IN THE MIDDLE AGES series (Rosen Publishing Group, 2006). Includes:

Abu al-Qasim Al-Zahrawi: Renowned Muslim Surgeon of the Tenth Century by Fred Ramen; *Ibn Rushd: Muslim Scholar, Philosopher, and Physician of the Twelfth Century* by Liz Sonneborn; *Ibn Sina: Muslim Physician and Philosopher of the Eleventh Century* by Aisha Khan; *Al-Biruni: Master Astronomer and Muslim Scholar of the Eleventh Century* by Bill Scheppeler; *Al-Khwarizmi: The Inventor of Algebra* by Corona Brezina; and *Al-Kindi: The Father of Arab Philosophy* by Tony Abboud.

LEBANON A to Z: A MIDDLE EASTERN MOSAIC by Marijean Boueri, Jill Boutros, and Joanne Sayad, illustrated by Tatiana Sabbagh (Publishing Works, 2005).

2005 Award Winner

HISTORICAL ATLAS OF ISLAM by Malise Ruthven and Azim Nanji (Harvard University Press, 2004).

2004 Award Winner

MOSQUE by David Macaulay (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003).

TEEN LIFE IN THE MIDDLE EAST by Ali Akbar Mahdi, editor (Greenwood Press, 2003).

2004 Honorable Mentions

A HISTORY OF THE MUSLIM WORLD TO 1405: THE MAKING OF A CIVILIZATION by Vernon O. Egger (Prentice Hall, 2003).

WITNESS TO HISTORY: AFGHANISTAN by David Downing (Heinemann Library, 2004).

2003 Award Winner

WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST: TRADITION AND CHANGE by Ramsay Harik and Elsa Marston (revised edition, Franklin Watts, 2003).

2001 Award Winner

ISLAM by Sue Penney (*World Beliefs and Cultures* series, Heinemann Library, 2000).

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2020 MIDDLE EAST BOOK AWARD

Books published in the period between January 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020 are eligible to be nominated for the 2020 award. Books must address in a substantive way any part of the Middle East region, or any of its component peoples or cultures, either through expository text (*youth non-fiction category*) or through characterization, action and plot (*picture book and youth literature categories*).

A committee of MEOC members, including classroom educators, librarians and media specialists, university level specialists, and other educators select award winners (and, if deemed appropriate, honorable mention titles) in three categories:

- **Picture Book** (simple text accompanied by large images on most pages, intended for elementary school readers).
- **Youth Literature** (plot-driven books appropriate for readers in middle and high school).
- **Youth Non-Fiction** (reference or other non-fiction—e.g., memoir—intended for K-12 audiences or their teachers).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

including more information on winners from years past, selection criteria, and procedures for nominating titles, visit: www.meoc.us/book-awards.html

or contact the Middle East Book Award Chairs at:

BookAwards@meoc.us