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


**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 Mentions

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

2017 Award Winner


2017 Honorable Mentions

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


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


2013 Honorable Mention


2012 Award Winners

**FOLKTALES FROM TURKEY: FROM AGRI TO ZELVE** by Serpil Ural, illustrated by Dilara Arin (Citlembik Publications, 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 (Boyds 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).
**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 (Spiegal & Grau, 2018).

2018 Award Winner

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

2018 Honorable Mentions

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

**THE GIRL FROM ALEPPO: NUJEEEN’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).


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


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

### YOUTH NON-FICTION CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Award Winner</th>
<th>Honorable Mentions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td><strong>THE UNWANTED: STORIES OF THE SYRIAN REFUGEES</strong> by Don Brown (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2018)</td>
<td><strong>A GAME FOR SWALLOWS: TO DIE, TO LEAVE, TO RETURN</strong> by Zeina Abirached (Graphic Universe, 2012).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>A FORT OF NINE TOWERS: AN AFGHAN FAMILY STORY</strong> by Don Brown (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2018)</td>
<td>**GREENBERG (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2016).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td><strong>WHERE THE STREETS HAD A NAME</strong> by Randa Abdel-Fattah (Scholastic Press, 2010).</td>
<td><strong>EXTRA CREDIT</strong> by Andrew Clements (Atheneum Books, 2009).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2003-2001 Award Winners

- **19 VARIETIES OF GAZELLE** by Naomi Shihab Nye (Greenwillow Books, 2002).
- **A FORT OF NINE TOWERS: AN AFGHAN FAMILY STORY** by Qais Akbar Omar (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2012).
- **TASTING THE SKY: A PALESTINIAN CHILDHOOD** by Ibtisam Barakat (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007).
- **GREENBERG (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2016).**
- **A GAME FOR SWALLOWS: TO DIE, TO LEAVE, TO RETURN** by Zeina Abirached (Graphic Universe, 2012).
- **WHERE THE STREETS HAD A NAME** by Randa Abdel-Fattah (Scholastic Press, 2010).

**Notes:**
- Greenberg (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2016).
- 2015 Award Winner
- 2015 Honorable Mentions
- 2013 Award Winners
- 2012 Award Winners
- 2011 Award Winner
- 2010 Award Winner
- 2009 Award Winner
- 2008 Award Winner
- 2007 Award Winner
- 2006 Award Winner
- 2005 Award Winner
- 2004 Award Winner
- 2003 Award Winner
- 2002 Award Winner
- 2001 Award Winner
- 2000 Award Winner

---

**See the full list on [meoc.us/book-awards.html](http://www.meoc.us/book-awards.html)**
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](http://www.meoc.us/book-awards.html)
or contact the Middle East Book Award Chairs at: BookAwards@meoc.us

www.meoc.us/book-awards.html