



## Middle East Book Award Winners

Established in 1999, 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

#### 2021 Award Winner

**THE LIBRARY BUS** by Bahram Rahman, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard (Pajama Press, 2020)

#### 2021 Honorable Mentions

**SEVEN SPECIAL SOMETHINGS** by Adib Khorram, illustrated by Zainab Faidhi (Dial Books, 2021)

**SONG OF THE OLD CITY** by Anna Pellicoli, illustrated by Merve Atilgan (G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2020)

#### 2020 Award Winners

**SALMA THE SYRIAN CHEF** by Danny Ramadan, illustrated by Anna Bron (Annick Press, 2020).

**THE CAT MAN OF ALEPPO** by Irene Latham and Karim Shamsi-Basha, illustrated by Yuko Shimizu (G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2020).

#### 2020 Honorable Mention

**THE GHOUL** by Taghreed Najjar, illustrated by Hassan Mansara, translated from Arabic by Michel Moushabeck (Crocodile Books, 2019).

#### 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 (Eerdman's 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

### 2021 Award Winners

**EVERYTHING SAD IS UNTRUE** by Daniel Nayeri (Levine Querido, 2020).

**BENI'S WAR** by Tammar Stein (Kar-Ben Publishing, 2020).

### 2021 Honorable Mention

... **TOO FAR FROM HOME** by Naomi Shmuel, illustrated by Avi Katz (Kar-Ben Publishing, 2020).

### 2020 Award Winners

**NO BALLET SHOES IN SYRIA** by Catherine Bruton (Nosy Crow, 2019).

**OTHER WORDS FOR HOME** by Jasmine Warga (Balzer + Bray, 2019).

### 2020 Honorable Mention

**ONCE UPON AN EID: STORIES OF HOPE AND JOY BY 15 MUSLIM VOICES** edited by S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed, illustrated by Sara Alfageeh (Harry N. Abrams, 2020).

### 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 Zein 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 Nujeeen 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, 2014).

### 2014 Award Winner

**FEAR OF BEAUTY** 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, 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

given in honor of Lisa Adeli

### 2021 Award Winner

**DRAWN ACROSS BORDERS: TRUE STORIES OF HUMAN MIGRATION** by George Butler (Candlewick Studio, 2021).

### 2021 Honorable Mentions

**EXPLORE THE OLD CITY OF ALEPPO** by Khadoun Fansa (Cure Press, 2020).

**MARYAM'S MAGIC** by Megan Reid, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel (Balzer + Bray, 2021).

### 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).

*The Youth Non-Fiction award is given in honor of Dr. Lisa Adeli, who headed the Youth Non-Fiction review committee for many years and worked tirelessly on behalf of the Middle East Outreach Council.*

### 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).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

including more information on the winning titles, from years, selection criteria, press releases, 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](mailto:BookAwards@meoc.us)