

# A List of 36 Books for promoting American/ Islamic Harmony

Favorites compiled May 2017 by Lallia Allai, M.A.

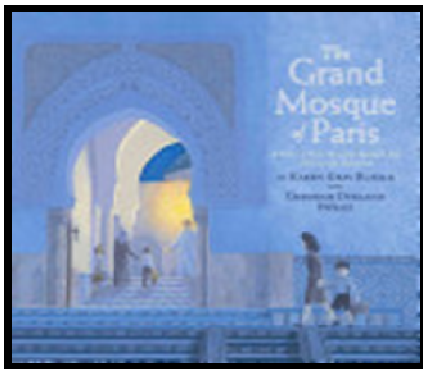
Please contact Mrs. Allai @ [salyas121@yahoo.fr](mailto:salyas121@yahoo.fr), if you are interested in ways to use these books for classroom discussions with students to promote mutual understanding and respect. 5-10-17

**Why books?** A quote from [www.ADL.org](http://www.ADL.org) **Books Matter**

*Books have the potential to create lasting impressions. They have the power to instill empathy, affirm children's sense of self, teach about others, transport to new places and inspire actions on behalf of social justice.*

## The Grand Mosque of Paris

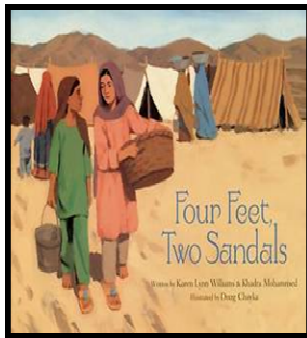
by Karen Gray Ruel



When the Nazis occupied Paris, no Jew was safe from arrest and deportation. Few Parisians were willing to risk their own lives to help. Yet during that perilous time, many Jews found refuge in an unlikely place--the sprawling complex of the Grand Mosque of Paris. Not just a place of worship but a community center, this hive of activity was an ideal temporary hiding place for escaped prisoners of war and Jews of all ages, especially children. Beautifully illustrated and thoroughly researched

## Four Feet Two Sandals

by Karen Lynn Williams  
Khadar Mohammad



When relief workers bring used clothing to a refugee camp in Pakistan, ten-year-old Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly - until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one. The girls discover the true meaning of friendship and sacrifice. "Four Feet, Two Sandals" honors the experiences of refugee children around the world, whose daily existence is marked by uncertainty and fear. Warm colors and bold brush strokes are the perfect complement to this story of courage and hope.

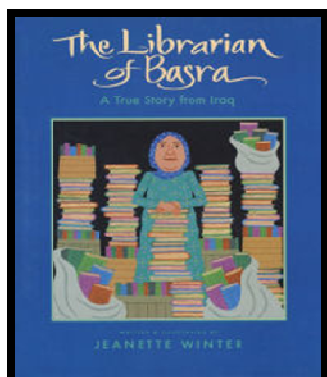
## One Green Apple

by Eve Bunting



Farah feels alone, even when surrounded by her classmates. She listens and nods but doesn't speak. It's hard being the new kid in school, especially when you're from another country and don't know the language. Then, on a field trip to an apple orchard, Farah discovers there are lots of things that sound the same as they did at home, from dogs crunching their food to the ripple of friendly laughter. As she helps the class make apple cider, Farah connects with the other students and begins to feel that she belongs.

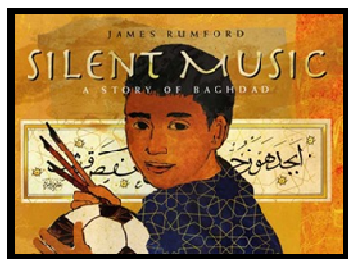
**The Librarian of Basra**  
by Jeanette Winter



"In the Koran, the first thing God said to Muhammad was 'Read.' Alia Muhammad Baker is a librarian in Basra, Iraq. For fourteen years, her library has been a meeting place for those who love books. Until now. Now war has come, and Alia fears that the library--along with the thirty thousand books within it--will be destroyed forever.

In a war-stricken country where civilians--especially women--have little power, this true story about a librarian's struggle to save her community's priceless collection of books reminds us all how, throughout the world, the love of literature and the respect for knowledge know no boundaries

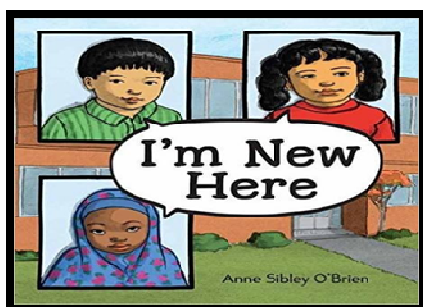
**Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad**  
by James Rumford



WHEN BOMBS BEGIN TO FALL, Ali drowns out the sound of war with a pen.

Like other children living in Baghdad, Ali loves soccer, music and dancing, but most of all, he loves the ancient art of calligraphy. When bombs begin to fall on his city, Ali turns to his pen, writing sweeping and gliding words to the silent music that drowns out the war all around him. Gorgeously illustrated with collage, pencil and charcoal drawings and, of course, exquisite calligraphy, this timely and yet universal story celebrates art and history but also offers young children a way to understand all they see and hear on the news.

**I'm New Here**  
by Anne Sibley O'Brien

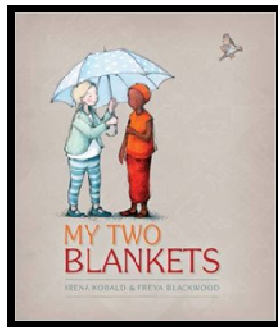


Three students are immigrants from Guatemala, Korea, and Somalia and have trouble speaking, writing, and sharing ideas in English in their new American elementary school. Through self-determination and with encouragement from their peers and teachers, the students learn to feel confident and comfortable in their new school without losing a sense of their home country, language, and identity.

Young readers from all backgrounds will appreciate this touching story about the assimilation of three immigrant students in a supportive school community.

*I'm New Here* demonstrates how our global community can work together and build a home for all.

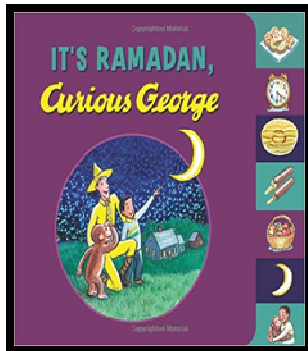
**Two Blankets**  
by: Irena Kolad



Cartwheel moves to a new country with her auntie, and everything is strange: the animals, the plants—even the wind. An old blanket gives Cartwheel comfort when she's sad—and a new blanket just might change her world.

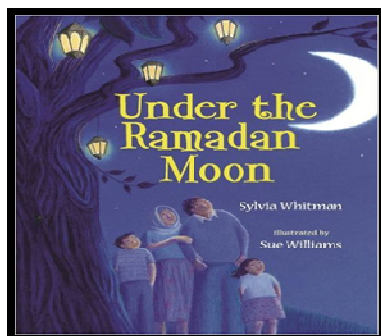
This multicultural story of friendship is about leaving home, moving to a foreign and strange place, and finding a new friend. It's a story for all who have experienced change. Irena Kobald's poetic text, paired with Kate Greenaway medalist Freya Blackwood's powerful paintings, renders an emotional and heart-warming story about two children from diverse backgrounds coming together to become new friends.

**It's Ramadan, Curious George**  
by H.A Ray & Hana Khan



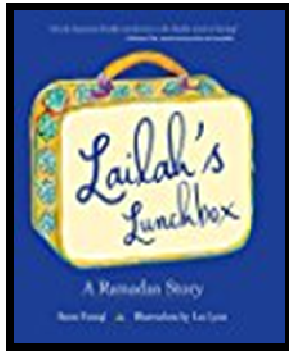
It is the first day of Ramadan, and George is celebrating with his friend Kareem and his family. George helps Kareem with his first fast and joins in the evening celebration of tasting treats and enjoying special meals. Then, George helps make gift baskets to donate to the needy, and watches for the crescent moon with the man in the yellow hat. Finally, George in the Eid festive to mark the end of his very first Ramadan.

**Under the Ramadan Moon**  
by Sylvia Whitman



We wait for the moon. We watch for the moon. We watch for the Ramadan moon. We give to the poor, and read Quran, under the moon. We live our faith, until next year under the moon, under the Ramadan moon. Ramadan is one of the most special months of the Islamic year, when Muslims pray, fast, and help those in need. Sylvia Whitman's lyrical story, with luminous illustrations by Sue Williams, serves as an introduction to Ramadan a time for reflection and ritual with family and friends. A detailed note about Ramadan is included.

**Lailah's Lunchbox**  
by Reem Faruqi



Lailah is in a new school in a new country, thousands of miles from her old home, and missing her old friends. When Ramadan begins, she is excited that she is finally old enough to participate in the fasting but worried that her classmates won't understand why she doesn't join them in the lunchroom.

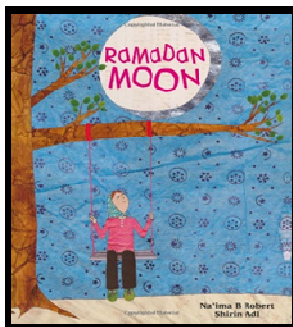
Lailah solves her problem with help from the school librarian and her teacher and in doing so learns that she can make new friends who respect her beliefs. This gentle, moving story from first-time author Reem Faruqi comes to life in Lea Lyon's vibrant illustrations. Lyon uses decorative arabesque borders on intermittent spreads to contrast the ordered patterns of Islamic observances with the unbounded rhythms of American school days.

**Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors**  
by Hena Khan, Mehrdokht Amin



Magnificently capturing the colorful world of Islam for the youngest readers, this breathtaking and informative picture book celebrates Islam's beauty and traditions. From a red prayer rug to a blue hijab, everyday colors are given special meaning as young readers learn about clothing, food, and other important elements of Islamic culture, with a young Muslim girl as a guide. Sure, to inspire questions and observations about world religions and cultures, *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns* is equally at home in a classroom reading circle as it is being read to a child on a parent's lap

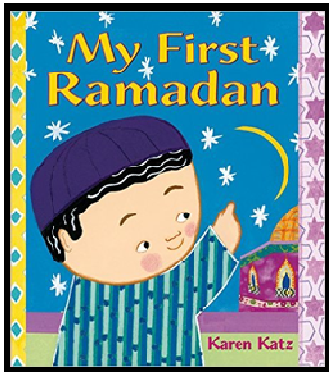
**The Ramadan Moon**  
by Na'ima B. Robert



Ramadan, the month of fasting, doesn't begin all at once. It begins with a whisper and a prayer and a wish. Muslims all over the world celebrate Ramadan and the joyful days of Eid-al-Fitr at the end of the month of fasting as the most special time of year. This lyrical and inspiring picture book captures the wonder and joy of this great annual event, from the perspective of a child.

Accompanied by Iranian inspired illustrations, the story follows the waxing of the moon from the first new crescent to full moon and waning until Eid is heralded by the first sighting of the second new moon. Written and illustrated by Muslims, this is a book for all children who celebrate Ramadan and those in the wider communities who want to understand why this is such a special experience for Muslims.

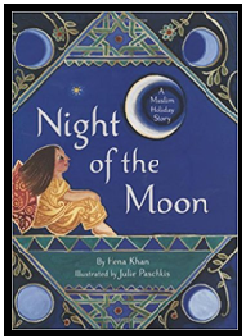
**My First Ramadan**  
by Karen Katz



It's time for Ramadan to begin. Follow along with one young boy as he observes the Muslim holy month with his family.

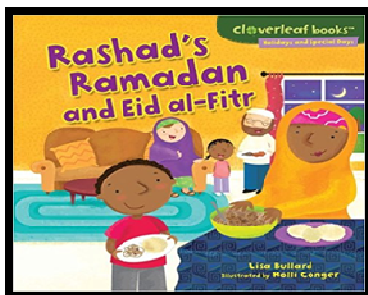
This year, the narrator is finally old enough to fast, and readers of all ages will be interested as he shares his experiences of this special holiday in Islam

**Night of the Moon**  
by Hena Khan & Julie Paschkis



Yasmeen, a seven-year-old Pakistani-American girl, celebrates the Muslim holidays of Ramadan, "The Night of the Moon" (Chaand Raat), and Eid. With lush illustrations that evoke Islamic art, this beautiful story offers a window into modern Muslim culture—and into the ancient roots from within its traditions have grown.

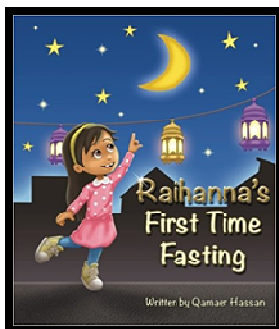
**Rashad's Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr**  
by Lisa Bullard & Holli Conger



For Muslims, Ramadan is a time for fasting, prayer, and thinking of others. Rashad tries to be good all month. When it's time for Eid al-Fitr, he feasts and plays! Find out how people celebrate this special time of year.

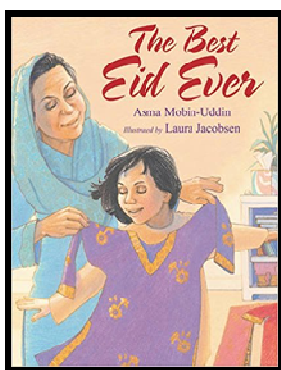
## **Raihanna's First Time Fasting**

by Qamaer Hassan



A heartwarming story about a young girl's first experience fasting for the month of Ramadan. Raihanna learns the meaning of Ramadan, why her family fasts, and how important it is to help her community

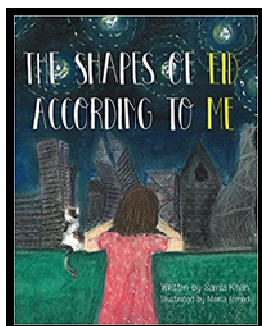
## **The Best Eid Ever** by Asma Mobin-Uddin & Laura Jacobsen



Young readers can learn about Eid, a religious holiday celebrated by Muslim families every year, as well as the Hajj pilgrimage, when Muslims travel back to Mecca for the Eid, in this picture book written by Dr. Asma Mobin-Uddin and illustrated by Laura Jacobsen.

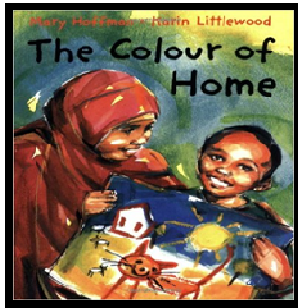
This Eid, Aneesa should be happy. But, her parents are thousands of miles away for the Hajj pilgrimage. To cheer her up, her Nonni gives her a gift of beautiful clothes, one outfit for each of the three days of Eid. At the prayer hall, Aneesa meets two sisters who are dressed in ill-fitting clothes for the holiday. She soon discovers that the girls are refugees – they had to leave everything behind when they left their native country to live in America. Aneesa, who can't stop thinking about what Eid must be like for them, comes up with a plan – a plan to help make it the best Eid holiday ever.

## **The Shapes of Eid, According to Me** by Samia Khan



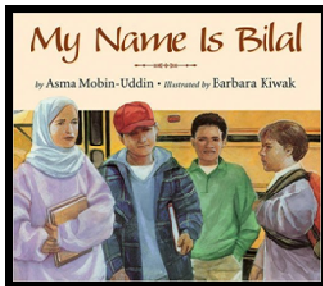
From curvy crescents and swirly swirls to ovals, triangles and spheres, Eid is filled with shapes that are your very own. Follow this rhyming story of the many shapes of this special day.

**The Colour of Home**  
by Mary Hoffman



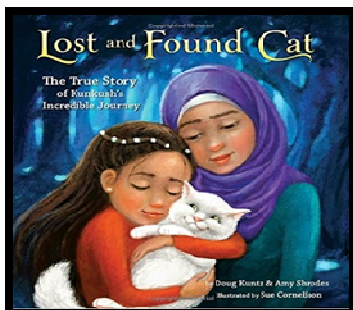
Hassan feels out of place in a new cold, grey country. At school, he paints a picture showing his colorful Somalian home, covered with the harsh colors of war from which his family has fled. He tells his teacher about their voyage from Mogadishu to Mombasa, the refugee camp and on to England. But gradually things change. When Hassan's parents put up his next picture on the wall, Hassan notices the maroon prayer mat, a bright green cushion and his sister Naima's pink dress - the new colors of home.

**My Name is Bilal**  
by Asma Mobin-Uddin



When Bilal and his sister Ayesha move with their family, they must attend a new school. They soon find out that they may be the only Muslim students there. When Bilal sees, his sister bullied on their first day, he worries about being teased himself, and thinks it might be best if his classmates didn't know that he is Muslim. Maybe if he tells kids his name is Bill, rather than Bilal, then they would leave him alone. Mr. Ali, one of Bilal's teachers and Muslim, sees how Bilal is struggling. He gives Bilal a book about the first person to give the call to prayer during the time of the Prophet Muhammad. That person was another Bilal: Bilal Ibn Rabah. What Bilal learns from the book forms the compelling story of a young boy grappling with his identity.

**Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey**  
by Doug Kuntz & Amy Shrodes



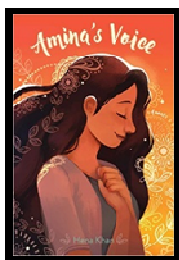
When an Iraqi family is forced to flee their home, they can't bear to leave their beloved cat, Kunkush, behind. So, they carry him with them from Iraq to Greece, keeping their secret passenger hidden away.

But during the crowded boat crossing to Greece, his carrier breaks and the frightened cat runs from the chaos. In one moment, he is gone. After an unsuccessful search, his family has to continue their journey, leaving brokenhearted.

A few days later, aid workers in Greece find the lost cat. Knowing how much his family has sacrificed already, they are desperate to reunite them with the cat they love so much. A worldwide community comes together to spread the word on the Internet and in the news media, and after several months the impossible happens—Kunkush's family is found, and they finally get their happy ending in their new home.

## Amina's Voice

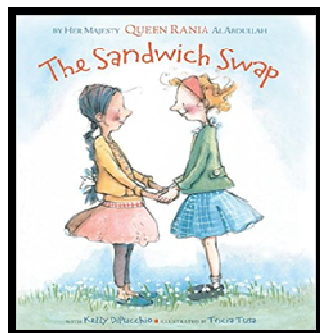
by Hena Khan



Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too? Or hiding who she is to fit in? While Amina grapples with these questions, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized.

## The Sandwich Swap

by Queen Rania of Jordan Al Abdullah

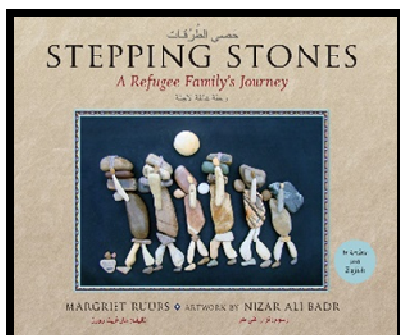


Lily and Salma are best friends. They like doing all the same things, and they always eat lunch together. Lily eats peanut butter and Salma eats hummus-but what's that between friends? It turns out, a lot. Before they know it, a food fight breaks out. Can Lily and Salma put aside their differences? Or will a sandwich come between them?

The smallest things can pull us apart-until we learn that friendship is far more powerful than difference. In a glorious three-page gatefold at the end of the book, Salma, Lily, and all their classmates come together in the true spirit of tolerance and acceptance.

## Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey (Arabic and English Edition)

by Margriet Ruurs & Falah Raheem

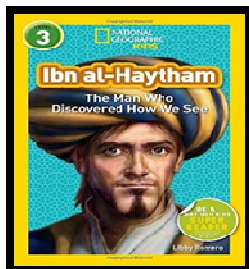


This unique picture book was inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr, discovered by chance by Canadian children's writer Margriet Ruurs. The author was immediately impressed by the strong narrative quality of Mr. Badr's work, and, using many of Mr. Badr's already-created pieces, she set out to create a story about the Syrian refugee crisis. *Stepping Stones* tells the story of Rama and her family, who are forced to flee their once-peaceful village to escape the ravages of the civil war raging ever closer to their home. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her mother, father, grandfather and brother, Sami, set out to walk to freedom in Europe. Nizar Ali Badr's stunning stone images illustrate the story.

Orca Book Publishers is pleased to offer this book as a dual-language (English and Arabic) edition.

## **Ibn al-Haytham: The Man Who Discovered How We See**

by National Geographic



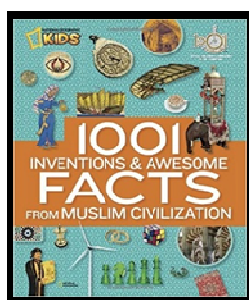
Meet the scientist known as the "Father of Optics," Ibn al-Haytham!

During the golden age of science, knowledge, and invention in Muslim civilization -- also known as the "Dark Ages" in Western Europe -- this incredible scholar discovered how we see and set the stage for the methods we now know as the scientific process. Packed with beautiful and engaging photos, kids will learn all about this fascinating scientist.

The level 3 text provides accessible, yet wide-ranging, information for independent readers.

## **1001 Inventions and Awesome Facts from Muslim Civilization**

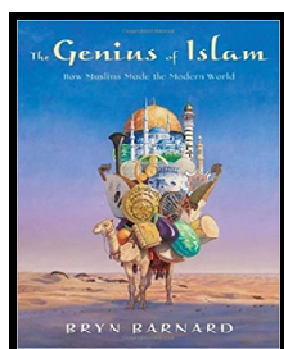
by National Geographic



We often think that people from a thousand years ago were living in the Dark Ages. But from the 7th century onward in Muslim civilization there were amazing advances and inventions that still influence our everyday lives. People living in the Muslim world saw what the Egyptians, Chinese, Indians, Greek, and Romans had discovered and spent the next one thousand years adding new developments and ideas. Inventors created marvels like the elephant water clock, explorers drew detailed maps of the world, women made scientific breakthroughs and founded universities, architects built huge domes larger than anywhere else on earth, astronomers mapped the stars and so much more!

## **The Genius of Islam: How Muslims Made the Modern World**

by Bryn Barnard



The Middle Ages were a period of tremendous cultural and scientific advancement in the Islamic Empire—ideas and inventions that shaped our world.

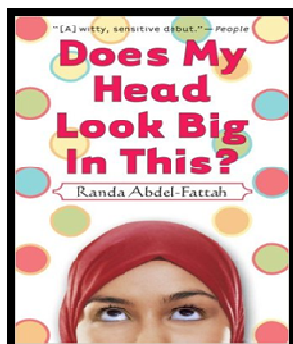
Did you know that:

- the numbers you use every day (Arabic numerals!) are a Muslim invention?
- the marching band you hear at football games has its roots in the Middle East?
- you are drinking orange juice at breakfast today thanks to Islamic farming innovations?
- the modern city's skyline was made possible by Islamic architecture?

The Muslim world has often been a bridge between East and West, but many of Islam's crucial innovations are hidden within the folds of history.

## Does My Head Look Big In This?

by Randa Abdel-Fattah

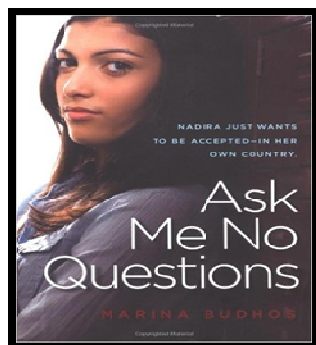


Sixteen-year-old Amal makes the decision to start wearing the hijab full-time and everyone has a reaction. Her parents, her teachers, her friends, people on the street. But she stands by her decision to embrace her faith and all that it is, even if it does make her a little different from everyone else.

Can she handle the taunts of "towel head," the prejudice of her classmates, and still attract the cutest boy in school? Brilliantly funny and poignant, Randa Abdel-Fattah's debut novel will strike a chord in all teenage readers, no matter what their beliefs.

## Ask Me No Questions

by Marina Budhos



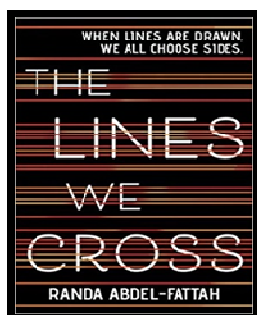
Since emigrating from Bangladesh, fourteen-year-old Nadira and her family have been living in New York City on expired visas, hoping to realize their dream of becoming legal U.S. citizens. But after 9/11, everything changes. Suddenly being Muslim means you are dangerous -- a suspected terrorist.

When Nadira's father is arrested, and detained at the U.S.-Canadian border, Nadira and her older sister, Aisha, are told to carry on as if everything is the same. The teachers at Flushing High don't ask any questions, but Aisha falls apart. Nothing matters to her anymore -- not even college.

It's up to Nadira to be the strong one and bring her family back together again.

## The Lines We Cross

by Randa Abdel-Fattah



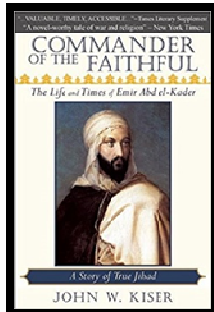
Michael likes to hang out with his friends and play with the latest graphic design software. His parents drag him to rallies held by their anti-immigrant group, which rails against the tide of refugees flooding the country. And it all makes sense to Michael.

Until Mina, a beautiful girl from the other side of the protest lines, shows up at his school, and turns out to be funny, smart -- and a Muslim refugee from Afghanistan. Suddenly, his parents' politics seem much more complicated.

Mina has had a long and dangerous journey fleeing her besieged home in Afghanistan, and now faces a frigid reception at her new prep school, where she is on scholarship. As tensions rise, lines are drawn. Michael has to decide where he stands. Mina has to protect herself and her family. Both have to choose what they want their world to look like.

## Commander of the Faithful, The Life and Times of Emir Abd el-Kader

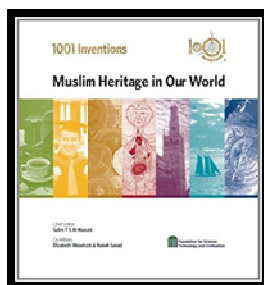
by John Kiser



Curious about the city in Iowa “El Kader” named after the Algerian Emir Abdel Kader, and *New York Times* called him "one of the few great men of the century." John Kiser wrote this book. This well-researched and compelling biography of the Muslim warrior-saint who led the Algerian resistance to French colonization in the mid-nineteenth century sheds light on current US involvement with a global Islam. The most famous "jihadist" of his time, Abd el-Kader was known equally for his military brilliance and his moral authority.

## 1001 Inventions: Muslim Heritage in Our World

by Salim T.S. Al-Hassani & Sir  
Roland Jackson

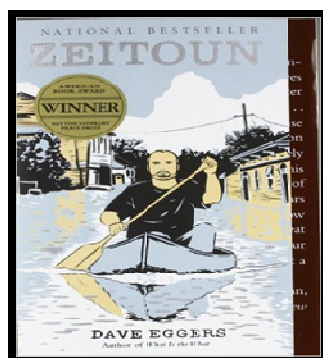


*1001 Inventions: Muslim Heritage in Our World* presents an excellent overview of Muslim heritage written to appeal to the everyday reader and to amaze and redefine many people's current assumptions of medieval times and of their history and roots.

This is an essential introduction to the great epoch of Muslim civilization. Readers now have access to one thousand years of missing history, covering medicine, technology, economics, civilization, the environment, and much more. From Spain to China, scholars of different genders, cultures, and various faiths worked together to build upon the knowledge of ancient civilization.

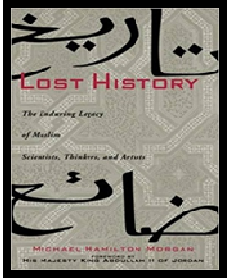
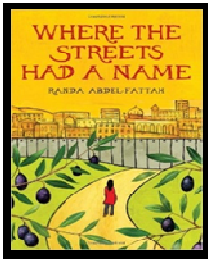
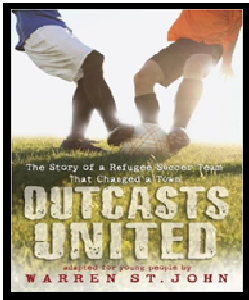
## Zeitoun

by Dave Eggers



The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina.

Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Told with eloquence and compassion, *Zeitoun* is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water.

<p><b>Lost History: The Enduring Legacy of Muslim Scientists, Thinkers, and Artists</b> by Michael Morgan</p> 	<p>Michael Hamilton Morgan reveals how early Muslim advancements in science and culture lay the cornerstones of the European Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and modern Western society. As he chronicles the Golden Ages of Islam, beginning in 570 a.d. with the birth of Muhammad, and resonating today, he introduces scholars like Ibn Al-Haytham, Ibn Sina, Al-Tusi, Al-Khwarizmi, and Omar Khayyam, towering figures who revolutionized the mathematics, astronomy, and medicine of their time and paved the way for Newton, Copernicus, and many others. And he reminds us that inspired leaders from Muhammad to Suleiman the Magnificent and beyond championed religious tolerance, encouraged intellectual inquiry, and sponsored artistic, architectural, and literary works that still dazzle us with their brilliance. <i>Lost History</i> finally affords pioneering leaders with the proper credit and respect they so richly deserve.</p>
<p><b>Where the Streets Had a Name</b> by Randa Abdel-Fattah</p> 	<p>Thirteen-year-old Hayaat is on a mission. She believes a handful of soil from her grandmother's ancestral home in Jerusalem will save her beloved Sitti Zeynab's life. The only problem is that Hayaat and her family live behind the impenetrable wall that divides the West Bank, and they're on the wrong side of check points, curfews, and the travel permit system. Plus, Hayaat's best friend Samy always manages to attract trouble. But luck is on the pair's side as they undertake the journey to Jerusalem from the Palestinian Territories when Hayaat and Samy have a curfew-free day to travel.</p>
<p><b>Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town</b> by Warren St John</p> 	<p>. Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical Southern town until it was designated a refugee settlement center in the 1990s, becoming the first American home for scores of families in flight from the world's war zones—from Liberia and Sudan to Iraq and Afghanistan. Suddenly Clarkston's streets were filled with women wearing the hijab, the smells of cumin and curry, and kids of all colors playing soccer in any open space they could find. The town also became home to Luma Mufleh, an American-educated Jordanian woman who founded a youth soccer team to unify Clarkston's refugee children and keep them off the streets. These kids named themselves the Fugees. Set against the backdrop of an American town that without its consent had become a vast social experiment</p>

Please contact Mrs. Allali @ [salyas121@yahoo.fr](mailto:salyas121@yahoo.fr), if you are interested in ways to use these books for classroom discussions with students to promote mutual understanding and respect.