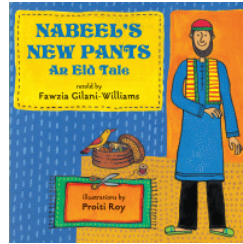


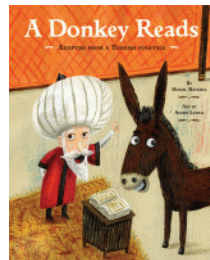
Mid-Eastern Read Alouds

TURKEY



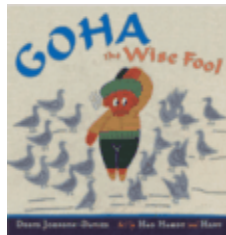
On the eve of Eid, the culmination of the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, Nabeel buys gifts for his family and a new pair of pants for himself. When he arrives home, however, he finds that the pants are too long and asks his wife, mother or daughter to trim them. Each woman is too busy with their gifts to help, so Nabeel trims them himself.

<https://youtu.be/xCbNPR-amDc>



In a small village in Anatolia, even the poorest villager is expected to pay tribute to a tyrannical Mongol ruler, but the wiseman, Nasreddin Hoca, finds a way to make an aged donkey seem most valuable.

<https://youtu.be/5Q9Uc0SEV6A>



Meet Goha, that funny little man with the faithful donkey, whose tales, beloved for their wit and wisdom, have been passed down through the streets of the smallest villages of the Middle East for centuries.

<https://youtu.be/7cBvmc4UqXA>

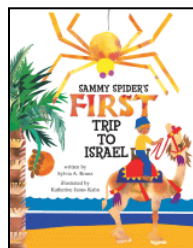


ISRAEL



Simple text on board pages introduces young readers to some of the culture and people of Israel, counting from one to ten, from one cable car going to Masada to ten children dancing the hora.

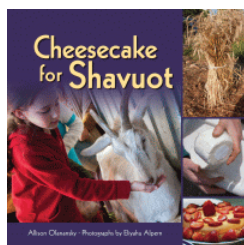
<https://youtu.be/ZS6tbMEwfBM>



As a stowaway in a boy's model airplane, Sammy joins the family's sightseeing trip in Israel and uses his five senses to experience the country.

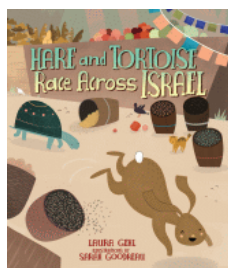
<https://youtu.be/y6K5-YyJ8aA>





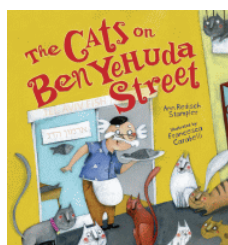
To celebrate Shavuot, a spring harvest festival, children in Israel make cheesecake using flour they have ground from wheat they have grown in their school garden, fresh goat cheese from the friendly petting zoo goats, and fresh strawberries from the garden.

<https://youtu.be/tXa1XZu0bBQ>



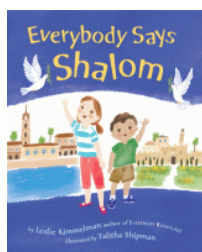
Two good friends, Hare and Tortoise, race from Tel Aviv to the Dead Sea, enjoying the unique culture and geography of Israel along the way.

<https://youtu.be/L0ia9Oac-NA>



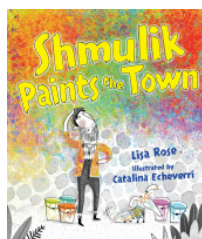
Mr. Modiano owns a fish store and hates cats. His neighbor, Mrs. Spiegel, loves her cat. The two are brought together when Mrs. Spiegel's cat goes missing and Mr. Modiano searches the streets of Tel Aviv to find the missing pet.

<https://youtu.be/NOUuNkyiCJk>



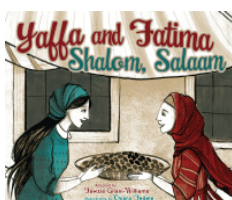
Rhyming text depicts a family who visits Israel and experiences its sights, flavors, and landscape while learning the full meaning of the word "shalom."

<https://youtu.be/lAW8O7L6lil>



Shmulik is asked by the mayor to paint a grand mural for the upcoming Israeli Independence Day celebration, but Shmulik doesn't know what to paint—thankfully his dog, Ezra, knows how to help.

<https://youtu.be/ZvB0858CIC0>



Adapted from traditional Jewish and Arab folklore, Yaffa and Fatima, neighbors in the Land of Milk and Honey each tend their own date grove. Every day they pick and sell their dates, cook and share tasty foods, and pray to God—Yaffa in the synagogue and Fatima in the mosque. When hard times come, they worry about the other's welfare, and when they realize that each has been secretly sharing with the other, they are grateful for their friendship.

<https://youtu.be/ag55rOs4yrl>



Abby's excited about her new home in Israel, but she misses her grandma. As they exchange letters and emails, Abby tells about her new life-learning Hebrew, eating falafel, and floating in the Dead Sea.

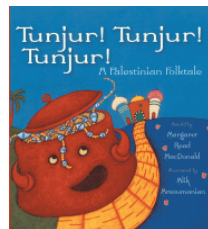
<https://youtu.be/a3LSlp43I30>

WEST BANK/PALESTINE



On a trip halfway around the world, young Mona comes to love her grandmother as she learns about the daily life of the elderly Palestinian Arab woman. When she returns home, Mona writes a letter to the president, in which she describes her grandmother and asks for peace.

<https://youtu.be/JPdrXygRq0Y>

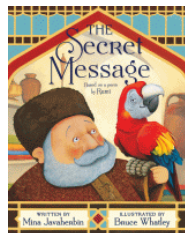


A childless woman's prayers are answered by the arrival of a talking pot. The hyperactive Little Pot fills the house with the sound of "Tunjur! Tunjur! Tunjur!" as she rolls around the floor (the Arabic word for pot). Unfortunately though, Little Pot has no moral compass; she rolls into town and steals honey from a merchant and jewels from the queen. Will she learn right and wrong?

<https://youtu.be/w-ReW-eMdwA>



IRAN



Alone, imprisoned in a golden cage, and far from the jungles of home, a parrot longs to escape. Will he ever fly free again?

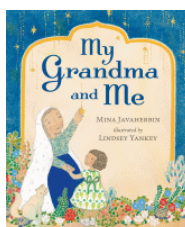
Based on Porsian folklore, this witty tale will enchant young readers as it introduces them to the culture, literature, and history of Persia.

<https://youtu.be/XcSSXPS53TU>



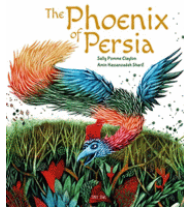
Rashin is an Iranian immigrant girl living in New York, excited by her first trip to Coney Island. She's fascinated by the differences in the beach customs between her native Iran and her new home--but she misses the saffron flavored ice cream that she used to eat.

<https://youtu.be/WfqyJbBFFcU>



While Mina is growing up in Iran, the center of her world is her grandmother. Whether visiting friends next door, going to the mosque for midnight prayers during Ramadan, or taking an imaginary trip around the planets, Mina and her grandma are never far apart.

<https://youtu.be/ac78RyIv7VI>



One of the ancient epic stories of Shahnameh (The Book of Kings). In Ancient Persia, a king awaits the birth of his son but when the child is born with white hair and skin, he is banished to the forest. The young babe is brought up by a phoenix until his father realizes the love he has lost and seeks his return.

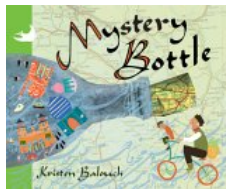
<https://youtu.be/PXdv-QwElgY>

IRAQ



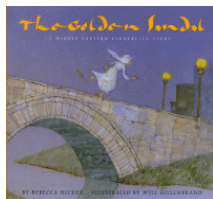
This heartwarming true story of one lost cat's journey to be reunited with his refugee family gently introduces children to a difficult topic and shows how ordinary people can help with compassion and hope.

<https://youtu.be/XR6lvBU9fUE>



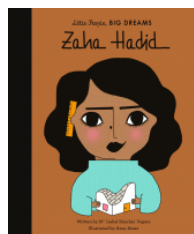
A little boy from Brooklyn receives a mysterious bottle in the mail that, when opened, transports him to Tehran, Iran to visit his grandfather.

<https://youtu.be/trFDGdcoQJA>



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.

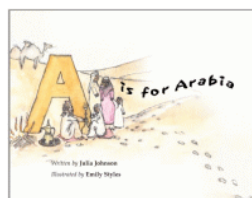
<https://youtu.be/Fov7U4FGqI0>



Part of the critically acclaimed Little People, BIG DREAMS series, *Zaha Hadid* tells the inspiring true story of the visionary Iraqi-British architect.

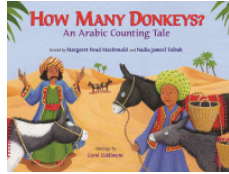
https://youtu.be/DSQM2P_nmHI

SAUDI ARABIA



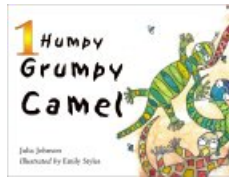
This is a journey through Arabia from A to Z, accompanied along the way by charming illustrations and witty rhymes. It gently introduces children to life in Arabia with pictures and words.

<https://youtu.be/QYI1d9AI-tY>



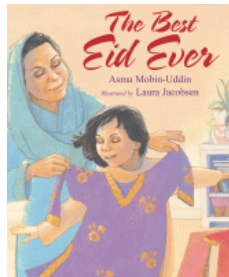
Readers are invited to count to 10 in Arabic as young Jouha leads his donkeys with dates to sell at the market. (Not the best video, but I like the Arabic counting.)

https://youtu.be/0V_hq74FIDM



One humpy grumpy camel...five silly billy goats... nine busy beetles...images of Arabian life from sunrise to sunset.

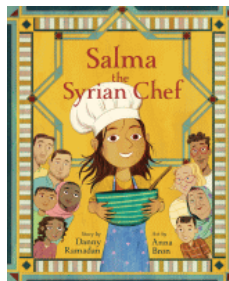
<https://youtu.be/SCbUY6LhvKA>



This year Aneesa's parents are in far away Saudi Arabia making the pilgrimage to Mecca for The Eid al-Adha ("Feast of the Sacrifice"). At the mosque, Aneesa meets two young girls, refugees who have just arrived in the U.S. from their war torn country. Aneesa and her grandmother come up with a plan to help the girls celebrate and make it the best Eid ever.

<https://youtu.be/AUba-6bpiss>

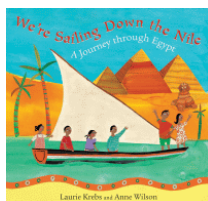
SYRIA



All Salma wants is to make her mama smile again. Between English classes, job interviews, and missing Papa back in Syria, Mama always seems busy or sad. A homemade Syrian meal might cheer her up, but Salma doesn't know the recipe, or what to call the vegetables in English, or where to find the right spices!

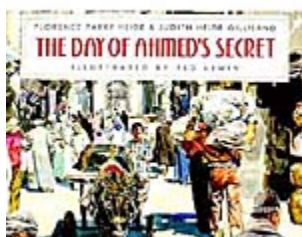
<https://youtu.be/WuuRoV839vo>

EGYPT



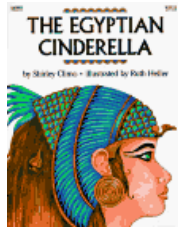
As six children sail down the Nile River, they visit seven sites including the Valley of the Kings, Al-Faiyum Oasis, Cairo, and the Great Pyramid of Giza.

<https://youtu.be/SGmYVNFS3RU>



A young Egyptian boy describes the city of Cairo as he goes about his daily work and waits for the evening to share a special surprise with his family.

<https://youtu.be/mul6fn2Ewfc>

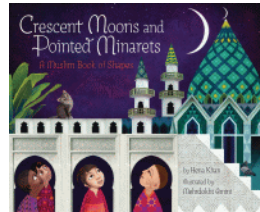


In this version of Cinderella set in Egypt in the sixth century B.C., Rhodopes, a slave girl, eventually comes to be chosen by the Pharaoh to be his queen.

<https://youtu.be/rxCH4mO09RA>



ISLAMIC CULTURE



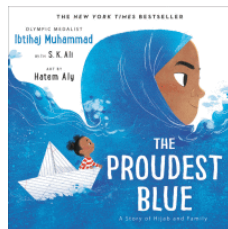
Simple rhyming text and colorful illustrations introduce young readers to the shapes and colors of the Islamic world, from the crescent moon to the oval table where Muslims break their fast with iftar after the sun sets.

<https://youtu.be/dIMC5FkTBGE>



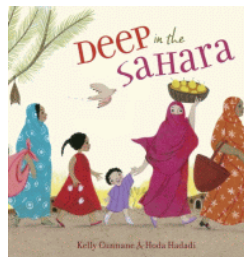
In simple rhyming text a young Muslim girl and her family guide the reader through the traditions and colors of Islam.

<https://youtu.be/rEaRUtf9MEM>



Faizah is excited about the first day of school--especially since it is her sister's first day of wearing a hijab--but when other students say mean things about Asiya's hijab, Faizah must find a way to put the hurtful words behind her.

https://youtu.be/CXsZF-sUQ_Q



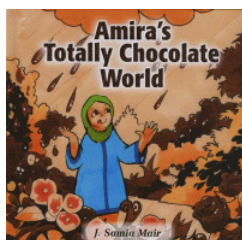
In Lalla's small African village, all the older women and girls wear malafas that fully cover their bodies. Although Lalla is still little, she yearns to have a beautiful malafa of her own, and asks her mother, grandmother, and sisters about it. Through their guidance, Lalla learns the religious significance of the garment, and begins to understand exactly what it means to be deemed mature enough to receive a malafa of one's own.

<https://youtu.be/C4O5Koyu-KQ>



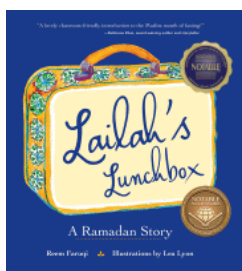
A Muslim father tells his daughter why she is special and why she should be proud and celebrate her heritage.

https://youtu.be/YpsAHCQ_fGo



Amira loves chocolate so much that every night she prays to Allah to make her world into chocolate. When she wakes up on Eid ul-Fitr to see everything transformed into chocolate, Amira is thrilled but soon realizes that she misses the colors and smells of nature.

<https://youtu.be/8Xdq5uo70d8>



Lailah is delighted that she can fast during the month of Ramadan like her family and her friends in Abu Dhabi, but finding a way to explain to her teacher and classmates in Atlanta, Georgia, is a challenge. Lailah solves her problem with help from her teachers and in doing so learns that she can make new friends who respect her beliefs.

<https://youtu.be/6orXncw99Q8>

