MULTITUDES OF MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

Who are Muslims

- **A monotheistic religion:** 2nd largest religion in the world with the fastest growing conversion rate
- **Core Beliefs:** Belief in one God (Allah), the prophethood of Muhammad, and the sacred text, the Quran.
- **Actions and Holidays:** 5 mandatory daily prayers; fasting habitually (in Ramadan); 2 Eid holidays
- **Population:** Over 1.9 billion people worldwide in every continent, with populations in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.
- **Multi-Ethnic:** Muslims belong to ethnicities/nationalities, including non-Arabs, South/Central, Southeast, East Asians, Sub-Saharan Africans, White, Eastern Europeans, Balkan regions, and others.
- **Languages:** Arabic is the language of the holy text of the Quran, but we speak numerous other languages. Cultural Practices reflect local customs and diverse expressions of Islamic traditions.
- **Sects:** 2 major sects, Sunni and Shia (but there are others)
- **Converts and Diaspora:** Muslims are multi-ethnic. They can be white due to conversion rates to Islam in the West; immigration has created diaspora and diverse communities in the West

Common Misconceptions

- Asia, not the MENA region, is home to the largest Muslim population, particularly in Indonesia
- Homogeneous: Muslims are often mistakenly viewed as a single, uniform Arab group. Islam is a religious identity, not an ethnic identity
- Muslims are more than identity and oppression; look past Malala, we are a rich mosaic of culture, cuisine; art; poetry; and more!

Conclusion: Understanding this diversity is crucial to fostering empathy and dismantling the effects of the War on Terror that devastated several countries and has contributed to Islamophobia. We are a snapshot of the diversity of the Muslim world.

How to contact the authors:

M.O. Yuksel
www.moyuksel.com
Huda Al-Marashi
www.hudaalmarashi.com
Diana Ma
www.dianamaauthor.com
Natasha Khan Kazi
www.natashakhankazi.com
Rhonda Roumani
www.rhondaroumani.com
Khadijah VanBrakle
www.khadijahvanbrakle.com
Sarah Mughal Rana
www.sarahmughalrana.net

Panelist Books for the Library

**MG Books**
- Tagging Freedom, (2023), Union Square
- The Unbeatable Lily Hong (2024), Clarion, HarperCollins
- Grounded (2023), Abrams Books

**YA Books**
- Hope Ablaze (2024) Macmillan Wednesday Books
- Fatima Tate Takes The Cake (2023) Holiday House

**Picture Books**
- Insha’Allah, No, Maybe So (2024), Penguin Random House
- MOON’S RAMADAN (2023) Versify, HarperCollins
- ONE WISH: Fatima Al-Fihri & the World’s Oldest University (2022) HarperCollins
- RAMADAN KAREEM (2024) HarperCollins
- SAMI’S SPECIAL GIFT: An Eid Al-Adha Story (2024) Charlesbridge

**Adult Books**
- First Comes Marriage: My Not-So Typical American Love Story (2018), Prometheus Books
Recent Muslim Stories

**Picture Books**

- Moon’s Ramadan by Natasha Kazi
- The Kindest Red by Ibthaj Muhammad and Hatem Aly
- In My Mosque by M.O. Yuksel and Hatem Aly
- One Wish: Fatima al-Fihri and the World’s Oldest University by M.O. Yuksel & Mariam Quraishi
- Ramadan Kareem by M.O. Yuksel and Hatem Aly
- Sami’s Special Gift: An Eid al-Adha Story by M.O. Yuksel and Huseyin Onmezay
- Mama Shamshi at the Bazaar By Samira Irwani
- The Night Before Eid by Aya Khalil
- Egyptian Lullaby by Zeena Pliska
- Halal Hot Dogs by Susannah Aziz
- The Book that Almost Rhymed by Omar Abed
- Do You Even Know Me? by Reem Faruqi
- Eleven Words for Love: A Journey Through Arabic Expressions of Love by Randa Abdel-Fattah
- Sitti’s Olive Trees by Ndaa Hassan
- We are Palestinian: A Celebration of Culture and Tradition by Reem Kassis
- Olive Harvest in Palestine by Wafa Shami
- Baba, What Does My Name Mean by Rifk Ebeid
- Daunia and the Magic Seeds Marya Zarif (Not sure if Muslim, maybe the author is)
- Salat in Secret Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
- The Banned Book Sale By Aya Khalil
- These Olive Trees Aya Ghanemeh
- Always Sisters By Saira Mir
- Miloo’s Mind by Reem Faruqi
- The Moon from Dehradun: A Story of Partition by Shirin Shamsi
- Dear Muslim Child by Rahma Radaah
- Insha’Allah, No, Maybe So by Rhonda Roumani, Nadia Roumani and Olivia Aserr
- The Masjid Kamal Loves by Ashley Franklin

**Middle Grade**

- Daughter of the Lamp by Nedda Lewers
- Tagging Freedom by Rhonda Roumani
- Grounded by Aisha Saeed, Huda Al-Marashi, SK Ali, Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
- Amina’s Voice by Hena Khan
- Drawing Deena by Hena Khan
- More to the Story by Hena Khan
- Call Me Adnan by Reem Faruqi
- Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed
- Omar Rising by Aisha Saeed
- Ahmed Aziz’s Epic Year by Nina Hamza
- Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga
- Kareem Between by Shifa Saltagi Safadi
- The Unbeatable Lily Hong by Diana Ma
- It Ain’t So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas
- Barakah Beats by Maleeha Siddiqui
- Piece by Piece by Priya Huq
- Rumaysa by Radya Hafiza
- Unsettled by Reem Faruqi
- Saving Sunshine by Saadia Faruqi
- Once Upon an Eid by S.K. Ali
- Yusuf Azeem is not a Hero by Saadia Faruqi
- The Unbeatable Lily Hong by Diana Ma
- The Unlovable Alina Butt by Ambreen Butt-Hussain

**Chapter Books**

- Nadia and Nadir by Marzieh Ali
- Meet Yasmin by Saadia Faruqi and Hatem Aly
- Marya Khan Series by Saadia Faruqi and Ani Bushry
- Zayd Saleem Series by Hena Khan
- Zara’s Rules Series by Hena Khan
Recent Young Adult

Fatima Tate Takes the Cake by Khadijah VanBrakle
Huda F Cares by Huda Fahmy
All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir
All You Have to Do by Autumn Allen
Fledgling by SK Ali
Love from A to Z and Love from Mecca to Medina by S.K. Ali
We Hunt the Flame by Hafsah Faizal
Hope Ablaze by Sarah Mughal Rana
Thorn Series & Sunbolt by Intisar Khanani
Forty Words for Love & Written in the Stars by Aisha Saeed
You Truly Assumed by Laila Sabreen
As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow by Zoulfa Katouh
The Next New Syrian Girl by Ream Shukairy
All American Muslim Girl by Nadine Jolie Courtney
The Weight of Our Sky by Hanna Alkaf
The Candle and the Flame by Nafiza Azad