

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.

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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 Ibtihaj 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 Sonmezay
Mama Shamsi at the Bazaar By Samira Irvani
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
Dounia 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
Milloo's Mind by Reem Faruqi
The Moon from Dehradun: A Story of Partition by Shirin Shamsi
Dear Muslim Child by Rahma Rodaah
Insha'Allah, No, Maybe So by Rhonda Roumani, Nadia Roumani and Olivia Aserr
The Masjid Kamal Loves by Ashley Franklin

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

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 Radiya 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

RECENT MUSLIM STORIES (CONT.)

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