

Further Reading on Islam and Muslim Experiences: from early readers to adult literature

Compiled by Rachel Weiss, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, UW-Madison, May 2019

Children's Books

Deep in the Sahara by Kelly Cunnane, illustrated by Hoda Hadadi (Schwartz & Wade/Random, 2013) Lalla, a little Mauritanian girl, gets her heart's desire when she shows her mother that her faith is important to her. Poetic language, attractive illustrations and a positive message about Islam, without any didacticism: a wonderful combination. (Picture book. 5-7) Kirkus Reviews

From Far Away by Robert Munsch, Saoussan Askar, illustrated by Rebecca Green (Annick Press, 2017) Seven-year-old Saoussan writes a letter to her reading buddy explaining how she left her war-torn country and what life in a new country has been like. A sad, challenging, and ultimately hopeful real-life story. (Picture book. 5-8) Kirkus Reviews

Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns by Hena Khan, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini (Chronicle Books, 2012) A sophisticated color-concept book featuring a contemporary family introduces Islam to young Muslims and children who don't practice this faith. A vibrant exploratory presentation that should be supplemented with other books. (Picture book. 4-7) Kirkus Reviews

Razia's Ray of Hope: One Girl's Dream of an Education, By Elizabeth Suneby, illustrated by Suana Verelst (Kids Can Press, 2013) The United States is still involved in Afghanistan, and interest in girls' education in that war-torn country is a strong topic of concern. Purposeful in a positive way, this imaginatively illustrated book should open readers' eyes to issues facing children who live in very different circumstances. (Picture book. 8-11) Kirkus Reviews

Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to His Daughter, by Mark Gonzales, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini (Salaam Reads, 2017) In Gonzales' first book for children, a father tells his Latin American indigenous, Muslim daughter to face the world's questions with pride in her identity. This book will be cherished by Muslim families seeking to boost their children's confidence and intriguing for non-Muslim families seeking to learn. (Picture book. 3-9) Kirkus Reviews

Teen Books

Amina: Through My Eyes, by L.J. Powers (Allen & Unwin, 2015) Amina Khalid is a sweet, amiable teenager—and a solid counterexample to Islamophobia and negative notions about Somalis. Readers don't always need another heroine—sometimes a young woman living an ordinary life in extraordinary circumstances will wilt stereotypes better than heroics. (map, author's note, timeline, glossary, further reading) (Fiction. 13-16) Kirkus Reviews

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan (Salaam Reads, 2017) A Pakistani-American girl starting middle school learns how to cope with the changes and challenges she faces at home, at school, and within her close-knit Muslim community. A perfect first book for this new Muslim imprint. (Fiction. 10-14) Kirkus Reviews

A Moment Comes by Jennifer Bradbury (Atheneum Book, 2013) India, 1947: As Britain prepares to divide the country before leaving, three lives unexpectedly intersect. Historical fiction that brings its history to bloody, poignant life: rare and notable. (glossary) (Historical fiction. 14 & up) Kirkus Reviews

The Garden of my Imaan, by Farhana Zia (Peachtree Publishers, 2013) This likable tale of an Indian-American girl who fears drawing attention from those hostile toward Muslims focuses on the social consequences of religious identity, rather than faith itself. Zia's gentle message—that Muslims come from many cultures whose observances differ, while the long shadow of 9/11 hovers over all—is timely and beautifully conveyed. (Fiction. 8-12) Kirkus Reviews

Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through a Never-Ending War, by Deborah Ellis (Groundwood Books, 2012)

The 10- to 17-year-olds interviewed for this collection mostly don't remember the Taliban's fall more than a decade ago, but they can't help but be shaped by the damage the Taliban did to their country. In a country that's been at war for more than 30 years, childhood is very different—or is it? Necessary. (Nonfiction. 10-14) Kirkus Reviews

Love, Hate and Other Filters, by Sanira Ahmed (Soho Press, 2018) High school senior Maya Aziz works up the courage to tell her parents that she's gotten into the film school of her dreams in New York City, but their expectations combined with anti-Muslim backlash from a terror attack threaten to derail her dream. A well-crafted plot with interesting revelations about living as a second-generation Muslim-American teen in today's climate. (Fiction. 13-18) Kirkus Reviews

Adult Books

Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes, by Tamim Ansary (PublicAffairs, 2010)

"Ansary has written an informative and thoroughly engaging look at the past, present and future of Islam. With his seamless and charming prose, he challenges conventional wisdom and appeals for a fuller understanding of how Islam and the world at large have shaped each other. And that makes this book, in this uneasy, contentious post 9/11 world, a must-read." —Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

The First Muslim: The Story of Muhammad, by Lesley Hazleton (Riverhead Books, 2013) "This book offers a welcome chance to read [Muhammed's] life story in a more familiar and accessible form than the Islamic sources... *The First Muslim* succeeds. It makes its subject vivid and immediate." —Hari Kunzru, *The New York Times Book Review*

Islam: A Short History, by Karen Armstrong (Modern Library Chronicles, 2002) "Karen Armstrong, a respected and popular author of several books about religion . . . takes on a useful and formidable task in presenting the history of Islam in a single short volume. As many other such works have been written either by apologists or by those hostile to Islam, Armstrong's comprehensive and sympathetic work is welcome." —*Los Angeles Times*

No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam (Updated Edition), by Reza Aslan (Random House, 2011) "[Reza] Aslan offers an invaluable introduction to the forces that have shaped Islam [in this] eloquent, erudite paean to Islam in all of its complicated glory." —*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

The Qur'an: An Introduction, by Anna Gade (Oneworld Publications, 2010) Muslims consider the Qur'an to be the final revelation of God. Moral code for millions of believers worldwide, it is seen as the principal miracle of the prophet Muhammad. In this stimulating study, Anna M. Gade provides a comprehensive primer to the sacred work, exploring the many ways in which Muslims approach this multifaceted text. Goodreads

Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas by Sylviane A. Diouf (NYU Press, 2013) "A must read for anyone interested in the early history of Islam in the African American community. Diouf goes beyond generalities and sheds light on the lives of transplanted Muslims who have become an important block in the rewriting of the history of Islam in the United States, providing heroic examples of adjustment and survival in a hostile environment." —Yvonne Haddad, Georgetown University