

## **Arabic Young Adult Literature in Translation: in conversation with Sawad Hussain, Marcia Lynx Qualey and Susanne Abou Ghaida**

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026, the University of Reading **Centre for Book Cultures and Publishing** in Partnership with **Outside In World** hosted a webinar dedicated to Arabic YA in English translation, as part of their webinar series '**Explorations in Translation for Children**'. The full recording can be found [here](#).

### **Books and resources mentioned in the webinar:**

**ArabKidLitNow!** is a collective of translators and children's book consultants passionate about raising the profile of Arabic writing for young people. They work in various ways to support the translation of Arabic kid lit and YA into English: <https://arabkidlitnow.com/> Email them with any questions: [arabkidlitnow@gmail.com](mailto:arabkidlitnow@gmail.com)

Information in English on the Arabic literary world, including children's and YA books can be found on **Arablit Quarterly** founded and directed by Marcia Lynx Qualey: <https://arablit.org/> contact [info@arablit.org](mailto:info@arablit.org)

Sawad Hussain's website: <https://sawadhussain.com/> and the article she wrote for *Wasafiri* reflecting on the inequities between language pairs <https://www.wasafiri.org/content/not-all-literary-translators-are-created-equal-by-sawad-hussain/>

Tamara Qush'ha (author) Amani Yousef (illustrator), *The Boy Called Azouz*  
<https://alyasminebooks.com/product/the-boy-called-azouz/>

Taghreed Najjar, *The Mystery of the Falcon's Eye*, <https://arablit.org/2020/03/09/new-in-translation-from-the-mystery-of-the-falcons-eye/>

Huda El Shuwa, *Dragon of Bethlehem* <https://glli-us.org/2020/01/22/worldkidlit-wednesday-why-translate-dragon-of-bethlehem/>

Literary agencies specialising in Arabic language literature, including children's/ YA literature:  
Tamer Said, Sharjah Literary Agency: <https://sla.ae/>  
Rola Banna <https://www.facebook.com/Rola.N.AlBanna/>  
Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp: <https://azulejosagency.com/>

For lots of helpful information on translations and global children's/ YA literature more broadly, see the websites of [Outside in World](#) and [World Kid Lit](#).

### **Further reading:**

The following list features Arabic literature for young readers in English translation, published between **2000 and 2026**.

Attaallah, Najlaa, *Asad's Secret*, Trans. Sawad Hussain, Levine Querido Books (2026).

Shawa, Hooda, *The Necklace of Seven Souls*, Trans. Nour Jaljuli and Sawad Hussain, Restless Books (2026).

Dadouch, Maria, *I Want Golden Eyes*, Trans. Marcia Lynx Qualey and Sawad Hussain, University of Texas Press/Center for Middle Eastern Studies UT-Austin (2025).

Morani, Djamila, *The Djinn's Apple*, Trans. Sawad Hussain, Neem Tree Press (2024).

Nimr, Sonia, *Thunderbird (Book Three)*, Trans. Marcia Lynx Qualey, University of Texas Press (2024).

Shtie, Fida & Ruth Burus, *The Number 25*, Trans. Marcia Lynx Qualey, Sunono Publishing (2023).

Merhej, Lena, *Yoghurt and Jam: Or How My Mother Became Lebanese*, Trans. Nadiyah Abdullatif and Anam Zafar, Balestier Books (2023).

Salih, Haya, *Wild Poppies*, Trans. Marcia Lynx Qualey, Levine Querido (2023).

Mattar, Malak, *Sitti's Bird: A Gaza Story*, Crocodile Books (2022).

Najjar, Taghreed, *What Shall We Play Now?*, Crocodile Books (2022).

Nimr, Sonia, *Thunderbird (Book One)*, Trans. Marcia Lynx Qualey, University of Texas Press (2022).

Nimr, Sonia, *Thunderbird (Book Two)*, Trans. Marcia Lynx Qualey, University of Texas Press (2022).

Buti, Lateefa, *Hatless*, Trans. Nancy Roberts, Darf Children's Books (2021).

Fakhreddine, Jawdat, *Thirty Poems for Children*, Trans. Huda Fakhreddine, Bookland Press (2021).

Hachimi Alaoui, Amina, *Alya and the Three Cats*, Trans. Nathaniel Penn, Chouette Publishing/CrackBoom! Books (2020).

Nimr, Sonia, *Wondrous Journeys in Strange Lands*, Trans. Marcia Lynx Qualey, Interlink (2020).

Salah Al-Mahdi, Ahmad, *Reem: Into the Unknown*, Trans. Ahmed Salah Al-Mahdi, Samawy/Kydala (2020).

Ali Al Kabani, Abeer, *Nour's Escape*, Trans. Ruth Ahmedzai, Darf Children's Books (2019).

Bsharat, Ahlam, *Trees for Absentees*, Trans. Ruth Ahmedzai & Sue Copeland, Neem Tree Press (2019).

Hajo, Gulnar, *The Dot*, Trans. Ruth Ahmedzai, Darf Children's Books (2019).

Kaadon, Nadine, *Tomorrow*, Lantana Press (2019).

Najjar, Taghreed, *My Brother and Me*, Trans. Michelle Hartman, CrackBoom! Books (2019).

Najjar, Taghreed, *The Ghoul*, Trans. Michel Moushabeck, Interlink (2019).

Sharafeddine, Fatima & Mahfouz Barraji, Samar, *Ghady & Rawan*, Trans. Sawad Hussain and Marcia Lynx Qualey, University of Texas Press (2019).

Najjar, Taghreed, *Watermelon Madness*, Trans. Michelle Hartman and Tameem Hartman, CrackBoom! Books (2018).

Abu-alhayyat, Maya, *The Blue Pool of Questions*, Trans. Hanan Awad, Penny Candy Books (2017).

Bsharat, Ahlam, *Code Name Butterfly*, Trans. Nancy Roberts, Neem Tree Press (2016).

Najjar, Taghreed, *The Little Green Drum*, Retold by Lucy Coats, Orion Books (2015).

Sharafeddine, Fatima, *The Amazing Discoveries of Ibn Sina*, Trans. Intelaq Mohammed Ali, Greenwood (2015).

Sharafeddine, Fatima, *The Amazing Travels of Ibn Battuta*, Trans. Intelaq Mohammed Ali, Greenwood (2014).

Koraytem, Salma, *I am a Woolly Hat*, Retold by Vivian French, Orion Books (2013).

Sharafeddine, Fatima, *The Servant*, Greenwood Books (2013).

Alkhayyat, Maitha, *My Own Special Way*, Trans. Fatima Sharafeddine / Retold by Vivian French, Orion Books (2012).

Sharafeddine, Fatima, *Chez Moi, C'est la Guerre [In My City, There's a War]*, Mijade (2008).

Ellabbad, Mohieddin, *The Illustrator's Notebook*, Greenwood Books (2006).

Sharafeddine, Fatima, *Fi-Madinati Harb [In My City, There's a War]*, Beirut: Asala Publishers (2005).

Nasrallah, Emily, *What Happened to Zeeko*, Trans. Denys Johnson-Davies, Hoopoe Books (2000).