

Welcome to the

# Reading List

## RATING SYSTEM

- \* Well written book with minimal or no un-Islamic values
- \*\* Very well written book with at least one Islamic value
- \*\*\* Strongly endorsed book that is excellent in terms of reading enjoyment and contains Islamic values

## NOTE

Some of these books were written over 50 years ago and might not be available as new books. However, they should be available through used book stores and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), which links with online used book stores. You can trust these stores as to the condition of the book. If it says 'like new', it will look new. If it says 'library binding', it may have library markings in it, but the text will be in good condition, and the binding probably reinforced. 'Very good' books or better are suitable for our school libraries.

## GROUPINGS

The books are loosely grouped by grades and only for ease in locating. The divisions are according to the following:

### **GRADES**

K – 4	4 – 6	6 – 9	9 – 12
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## FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback and hope you will send us your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions for more books to evaluate. Please send your feedback to the following email address and allow two weeks for a response: [books@4islamicschools.org](mailto:books@4islamicschools.org)

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Author	Title	Rating	Description	Magic or Disability
<b>Grades K - 4</b>				
Aliki	<i>Feelings</i>	**	With minimal words and maximum illustrations, children are encouraged to consider the feelings of others, and in the process have great feelings of their own.	
Arkhurst, Joyce Cooper and Jerry Pinkney	<i>The Adventures of Spider: West African Folktales</i>	*	These tales are not identifiable as Muslim tales, but they are from Muslim West Africa.	
Asim, Jabari and Aaron Boyd	<i>Daddy Goes to Work</i>	*	A young girl goes to work with her father and helps him type his report and give a presentation. Good family interaction.	
Baker, Keith	<i>The Magic Fan</i>	**	This book is about having a hobby or occupation that helps others. Villager people don't like Yoshi's magic bridge until it saves them from a tsunami.	<b>M</b>
Bang, Molly	<i>The Paper Crane</i>	**	A paper crane left by a thankful stranger, whom they fed although he was penniless, leads to good fortune for a restaurant owner down on his luck. The man's young son works with him.	
Berry, Christine and Maria Cristina Brusca	<i>Mama Went Walking</i>	**	A wonderful book about good family relations. The Mother's amazing adventures are always saved by her small daughter.	
Bertrand, Diane Gonzales	<i>My Pal, Victor/Mi Amigo, Victor</i>	*	A small boy talks about what makes Victor his best friend, and it is not until the illustration on the last page that we find out that Victor is in a wheelchair. The last line of the book is, 'But, the most important thing about my pal, Victor, is that he likes me just the way I am/ Pero lo mas importante es que yo le gusto tal y como si.'	<b>D</b>
Bolden, Tonya R. Gregory Christie	<i>The Champ: The Story of Muhammad Ali</i>	**	The layout and style will appeal to those who don't like reading. Ali's character and religious beliefs are well represented.	
Bridges, Margaret Park and Kady Macdonald Denton	<i>If I Were Your Father</i>	*	A little boy offers his own fantastic vision of what a father might do, and his father listens lovingly and encouragingly.	
Briggs, Raymond	<i>Jim and the Beanstalk</i>	**	A humorous modern retelling of the Jack story, where Jim helps the giant.	
Bunting, Eve	<i>The Man Who Could Call Down Owls</i>	***	A fable about good and evil, in which a good man attract owls to him because of his goodness to them, and then an evil stranger tries to steal that power.	
Bunting, Eve	<i>One Green Apple</i>	*	Farah's first day of school is difficult because she doesn't know any English and so many things are different from her Muslim home country. Some of her classmates are helpful and kind, so her day ends well.	
Byars, Betsy	<i>Beans on the Roof</i>	*	Once Anna Bean goes to the roof in order to write a poem, both of her younger siblings want to do the same, and then their mother and father join in. The book is funny and it shows a close knit family helping each other.	

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Byars, Betsy	<i>The Not-Just-Anybody Family</i>	*	From flying off the roof to breaking into jail, the Blossom kids have many adventures. Good family relations.	
Burningham, John	<i>Come Away From the Water, Shirley</i>	**	While her parents relax on vacation and constantly remind her of what she can and can't do, Shirley goes adventuring at sea – in her imagination. Good, humorous parent-child interaction.	
Cadena, Beth	<i>Supersister</i>	**	Naming herself Supersister, the young girl does everything she can think of to help her mother, including tying and untying her shoe laces. At the end, we discover that mother is too pregnant to be able to do her own shoes, and Supersister goes to bed happy, dreaming of her new baby sibling.	
Caudill, Rebecca	<i>Happy Little Family</i>	*	A very old fashion book about growing up in the Kentucky mountains in the 1940's. Good family interaction. Bonnie, age 4 is the central character, and the stories are mostly told from her point-of-view.	
Chang, Andrea and Joline McFadden	<i>When the Bees Fly Home</i>	*	Artistic and sensitive Jonathan often disappoints his father because he is too weak to help his father care for their bees. As their business slows down too much, his family is surprised to find that putting his little wax bees, etc. on candles makes them big sellers. The father is verbally disappointed in his son, but makes up for his words with his actions.	
Clarke, Abdassamad	<i>The Fabulous Adventures of Nasruddin Hoja</i>	*	A fine collection of the more famous stories of this Muslim folk character, also known as Joha, Goha, and Mullah Nasruddin.	
Clements, Andrew	<i>Ringo Saves the Day: A True Story</i>	*	A level 1 reader, the family's cat uncovers a gas leak in their garden. Good family relationships.	
Conover, Sarah and Freda Crane	<i>Ayat Jamilah: Beautiful Signs – A Treasury of Islamic Wisdom for Children and Parents</i>	***	An excellent collection of stories ideal for reading to young children and easy enough for older children to read alone. <i>2004 Aesop Prize (American Folklore Society) 2005 Skipping Stones Honors Award</i>	
Czernecki, Stefan	<i>Nina's Treasures</i>	*	A Ukrainian folk tale about Katerina and her hen, Nina, who are best friends, which explains the origin of pisanka, or egg painting. Helping friends and caring for the poor are values addressed in this book.	
Davis, Patricia A.	<i>Brian's Bird</i>	**	Brian is blind. His family gives him a parakeet who he trains to speak. His 'half bad' older brother helps him catch the bird when it flies outside. Good family relations.	<b>D</b>
Demi	<i>The Hungry Coat: A Tale from Turkey</i>	*	This is a beautifully illustrated story of the Muslim folk hero Joha-Nasruddin Hodja- Mulla Nasruddin. What is missing is the Islamic references you will find in the same story told in <i>Ayat Jamilah: Beautiful Signs</i> .	
Denton, Terry	<i>The School for Laughter</i>	*	When Eddie, who was always happy and smiling, loses his smile, his parents try to help him find it.	

## Reading List

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DePaola, Tomie	<i>Bill and Pete</i>	*	Crocodile Bill and his friend, Pete (a toothbrush bird), have an encounter with the Bad Guy from Cairo. Bill's accomplishments make his mother proud.	
Devine, Barbara	<i>Elvis the Camel</i>	*	A true story of a young camel in the Saudi desert that is hit by a truck and nursed back to health by an American and her three children.	
Diakite, Penda	<i>I Lost My Tooth in Africa</i>	**	A true story about an American girl who goes to visit her father's family in Mali, where she loses a tooth and learns about the customs of her relatives.	
Diller, Harriett	<i>Granddaddy's Highway</i>	*	Maggie and her grandfather make a fantasy trip via tractor-trailer along US Route 30 West, all the way to the Pacific Ocean.	
Edwards, Becky and David Armitage	<i>My Brother Sammy</i>	**	In the first half of the book, the boy wishes his mentally retarded brother could be more like him, but in the second half, he learns to enjoy being with Sammy just the way he is. His mother is there with loving and helpful advice.	<b>D</b>
Elliott, David	<i>Evangeline Mudd and the Great Mink Escapade</i>	*	A funny, fast paced adventure of an enterprising 10 yr. old. Family isn't involved much, but there is a good family.	
El-Moslimany, Ann P.	<i>Zaki's Ramadhan Fast</i>	***	This story glances at a day in the life of a little Muslim boy who is taking on the family tradition of fasting. His mother, father, and sister give him their support to achieve his goal of fasting for one day.	
English, Karen	<i>Nadia's Hands</i>	*	Nadia learns to be happy with her Pakistani heritage after her hands are hennaed for a wedding.	
Feelings, Muriel	<i>Jambo means hello: Swahili Alphabet Book</i>	*	Swahili is the language developed by the interaction of Arabic speaking Muslim merchants and local African inhabitants along the east coast of Africa. Ibada means faith, and the illustration shows Muslims praying.	
Flournoy, Valerie	<i>The Patchwork Quilt</i>	**	Tanya's grandmother starts a quilt, but when she falls ill, Tanya and her mother continue until Tanya finishes it. Excellent family interaction.	
Fowler, Susi Gregg	<i>Circle of Thanks</i>	**	A native Alaskan mother saves an otter pup, but "she doesn't say thank you ... but what do you expect from an otter pup"? Then the otter pup saves a raven, which in turn saves another animal, and so on until an Arctic fox saves the Alaskan human mother's son. An excellent book for discussion.	
Grahame, Kenneth	<i>The Reluctant Dragon</i>	**	This beautifully illustrated picture book about a dragon that is too lazy to fight and only wants to make up poetry is both funny and wise. The small boy who befriends him has wise parents who appreciate that he is the right one to deal with a dragon because he is the only one who has knowledge about them from reading books.	
Greenfield, Eloise	<i>Koya DeLaney and the Good Girl Blues</i>	**	Koya loves to laugh and make others laugh in this humorous novel. The relationship between Koya and her sister is admirable.	

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Guback, Georgia	<i>Luka's Quilt</i>	**	Luka's Hawaiian grandmother makes her a quilt that she is disappointed in. Following a short period of time where each is upset with the other, Luka and her grandmother learn to appreciate each other's opinions.
Hamilton, Virginia	<i>Zeely</i>	*	Eleven year old Geeder thinks that Zeely must be a queen because of the calm pride in her face. Zeely is actually an immigrant from Africa who has learned to be happy with who she really is.
Heide, Florence Parry	<i>The House of Wisdom</i>	*	Beautiful picture book and good story, except that the Muslim boy who is interested in learning is focused only on Aristotle.
Heide, Florence Parry	<i>Sami and the Time of the Troubles</i>	**	This seems to be a picture book for younger children, but this list recommends it for ages ten and above. It takes place during the bombing of Beirut.
Henkes, Kevin	<i>Sun &amp; Spoon</i>	*	10 year old Spoon really misses his grandmother after she dies, and needs a special something to remember her by. He takes her deck of cards only to discover that his grandfather also needs those cards. Together they solve their problem.
Hoberman, Mary Ann	<i>And to Think That We Thought That We'd Never Be Friends</i>	*	Starting with brother fighting sister, the refrain is "It's funny how quickly an argument ends and to think that we thought that we'd never be friends." Most of the book suggests that music can make friends of everyone.
Hoberman, Mary Ann	<i>Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers: A collection of family poems</i>	**	The author defines family as "All of your family plus you is a family," an adequate definition for young children. The poems have good rhyme and meter, and children will enjoy memorizing them as well as relating to them.
Hoberman, Mary Ann	<i>The Llama Who Had No Pajamas</i>	*	Not only are these poems fun to read and about lots of different animals as well as other topics, many of them also contain an easy to digest lesson. Ex: "That praying mantis over there/Is really not engaged in prayer./ That praying mantis that you see/ is really preying (with an e) ...."
Hoberman, Mary Ann	<i>Whose Garden Is It?</i>	*	This is a picture book. The gardener, animals (including the mole, snake, rabbit, snail), plants, and sun all claim that the garden is theirs because they live there and/or they have contributed something very important to make it grow. At the end, the reader is still wondering whose garden it is (making Muslim children eager to give the real answer).
Hest, Amy	<i>The Purple Coat</i>	**	Gabrielle gets a new, and always blue, coat from her grandfather tailor every year, but this year she wants a purple coat. Grandfather comes up with a solution that pleases both daughter and mother.
Hurwitz, Johanna Excellent author but other books not always desirable because of boyfriend-girlfriend issues.	<i>Ethan Out and About</i>	*	Several first reader stories about Ethan and his cat, riding a bike, etc. His father is part of one story. There are four to six words on a page.

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Hurwitz, Johanna	<i>Fourth-Grade Fuss</i>	*	Julio is a poor Hispanic kid but he has a supportive family and good friends who don't care that he has less material goods than they do. He's worried about the fourth grade statewide test, but learns that he'll do fine just by relaxing and doing his best.	
Hurwitz, Johanna	<i>Mighty Monty</i>	**	Monty has asthma, so there is a lot he can't do. But he's a smart kid who figures out his own way of doing things. Instead of running sports, he picks karate, and when his cat-owning friend has a party, he figures out how to join the party. Good supportive family.	<b>D</b>
Hurwitz, Johanna	<i>Nora and Mrs. Mind-Your-Own Business</i>	**	When Nora's parents won't let her go trick-or-treating because it's a pagan holiday, she comes up with the idea of giving gifts to her neighbors instead of asking for candy. Good family relations.	
Hurwitz, Johanna	<i>Russell's Secret</i>	*	Russell convinces his mother to let him stay home from nursery school to be a baby like his baby sister. His mother lets him, but treats him like a baby until finally he decides he'd rather be in school. Good family relations.	
Hurwitz, Johanna and Diane Degroat	<i>Tough-Luck Karen</i>	**	13-year old Karen thinks its her bad luck when she gets bad grades, and her bad luck when her mother won't let her babysit any more, and bad luck that keeps her from finding a science project. Finally she realizes that she is responsible for all her 'bad luck.' Good family interaction.	
Hutchins, Pat	<i>The Doorbell Rang</i>	***	Children of varied races learn to share cookies, and in the process learn a lesson in division. Mother and Grandmother are a vital part of the story. This is a very large book, so great for using with an entire class.	
Johnson-Davies, Denys	<i>Animal Tales from the Arab World</i>	*	Many good stories taken from famous collections like <i>Alf Layla wa Layla</i> , and <i>Kalila wa Dimna</i> .	
Johnson-Davies, Denys	<i>The Companions of the Prophet Muhammad</i>	***	Well written, beautifully (and Islamically) illustrated, and it includes the too often neglected Barakah, who raised Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) from childhood.	
Johnson-Davies, Denys	<i>Goha</i>	**	27 very funny stories about the Muslim folk character Goha, otherwise known as Joha, or Mullah Nasruddin, or Nasruddin Hodja.	
Johnson-Davies, Denys	<i>Tales from Morocco</i>	*	Very well told, and with very funny stories.	
Johnson-Davies, Denys	<i>Tales from Syria</i>	**	Very well told, and with Islamic values.	
Joyce, William	<i>A Day with Wilbur Robinson</i>	**	An ordinary boy goes to visit his ordinary friend Wilbur at his home. However, as the illustrations and text reveal, Wilbur does not have an ordinary family. Despite the absurdist actions of each member of the family except for Wilbur, they function together as an integrated, loving family.	

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Juster, Norton	<i>The Hello, Goodbye Window</i>	*	A little girl loves to spend her day looking through her grandparent's window. Both grandparents play games with her.	
Keats, Ezra Jack	<i>Apt. 3</i>	*	Two young boys make friends with a blind musician who lives in the same apartment building.	<b>D</b>
Khalsa, Dayal Kaur	<i>How Pizza Came to Queens</i>	*	The children try to make their guest from Italy happy but don't succeed until they give her the ingredients to make pizza. Good relations between old and young.	
Khan, Rukhsana	<i>Muslim Child: Understanding Islam Through Stories and Poems</i>	**	Funny and entertaining to children of all religions but especially to Muslim children, this book presents aspects of the daily lives of Muslim kids in various locales, including Canada, the U.S., Nigeria, and Pakistan. Though Khan's express purpose is to explain Islam to non-Muslim children, the most avid audience for this book may be American Muslim children excited finally to find stories with characters with whom they can relate.	
Khan, Rukhsana	<i>The Roses in My Carpets</i>	*	The beautiful carpets that he weaves help a young boy have hope while enduring the difficult life of Afghani refugee camps.	
King-Smith, Dick	<i>The Mouse Family Robinson</i>	*	The author has many good animal stories (including pig ones). Young Beaumont Robinson (Mouse) helps his family find a place safe from the household cat. The story is true to many mouse facts "Gosh, he has 78 children", says Beaumont about an old mouse. Good family relations.	
King-Smith, Dick	<i>The School Mouse</i>	*	Flora's family lives in the old school, but she's the only mouse interested in learning how to read. Another funny adventure.	
King-Smith, Dick	<i>Three Terrible Trins</i>	*	The mouse triplets (trins) get trained by their mother to be fast and work together in order to get rid of mice bullies and the household cats. Another funny adventure.	
King-Smith, Dick	<i>The Water Horse</i>	**	Another great adventure, but this one is about humans and the (Loch Ness) monster that they raise from an egg packet. Kirstie and her brother are friends and allies as they deal with the problem of raising a monster who grows at least an inch every day. Their mother is not fond of a monster in her bathtub but understands her children and old father's fascination with it.	
Kipling, Rudyard <i>Illustrated by Safaya Salter</i>	<i>Just So Stories</i>	*	This is a lovely edition of some of Kipling's classic "just so stories," like how elephants got their long noses. Safaya Salter is an Egyptian who uses many elements of Islamic art in her lushly drawn illustrations.	
Koller, Jackie French	<i>The Dragonling</i>	*	An entertaining fantasy without any magic. Darek befriends an orphaned baby dragon and learns that very different creatures can learn to live cooperatively.	

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by Dr. Freda Shamma

Kroll, Steven	<i>The Hokey-Pokey Man</i>	**	Two children enjoy getting ice cream from their friend Joe's cart. Joe's cousin is the person who has just invented the ice cream cone at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1902. The story mentions that Joe and his cousin are from Damascus, Syria; however, that they were also Muslims is not mentioned.	
Kroll, Virginia L.	<i>My Sister, Then and Now</i>	*	Ten year old Rachael's big sister is mentally ill. Her family helps her understand that her sister is ill, and the family members help one another deal with the illness.	<b>D</b>
Kurtz, Jane	<i>Pulling the Lion's Tail</i>	*	A beautiful picture book, an Ethiopian folk tale about learning patience.	
Lakin, Patricia	<i>Dad and Me in the Morning</i>	**	A deaf boy wakes his father, and they go out on the beach together to watch the sun rise.	<b>D</b>
Langston, Laura and Lindsey Gardiner	<i>Mile-High Apple Pie</i>	***	A child tells the story of her grandmother's descent into Alzheimer forgetfulness with a sweet and reassuring message.	
Lewin, Ted	<i>The Storytellers</i>	**	The story of a young boy and his grandfather who carry on the tradition of storytelling in Fez, Morocco.	
Locker, Thomas	<i>Family Farm</i>	*	An interesting story about a year on a small farm in which the mother, father, and two children have to work together to keep the farm.	
London, Jonathan	<i>Ali, Child of the Desert</i>	***	Traveling in the Sahara for the first time, Ali is separated from his father, but finds help from a shepherd until his father finds him.	
MacDonald, Betty and Anne Macdonald Canham	<i>Happy Birthday Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle</i>	**	This title is actually the latest in the series of Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle books, so start with Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle, a plump woman who lives in an upside-down house and knows all kinds of clever ways to cure children of their faults. All the children love her and never mind how she gets them to correct their ways. Her methods are both clever and funny, and sometimes magical.	<b>M</b>
Marchant, Kerena	<i>Muslim Festival Tales: Stories, poems, plays, songs</i>	**	The best book I've seen on Muslim festivals, full of activities that can be done in a classroom. <i>Note: Has two errors in it.</i>	
Martin, Bill and John Archambault	<i>Knots on a Counting Rope</i>	***	The values of family, faith, and love are found in this story of a blind Native American boy who listens to his grandfather tell the story of the boy's short life.	<b>D</b>
Mathis, Sharon Bell	<i>The Hundred Penny Box</i>	*	Michael and his 100 year-old great-great Aunt Dew have a loving relationship although she often mistakes Michael for his father. Michael's mother takes good care of Aunt Dew, but doesn't understand her attachment to the big, old, ugly box in which she keeps her hundred pennies, one for every year of her life. Good family interactions.	
Matze, Claire Sidhom	<i>The Stars in My Gedдох's Sky</i>	*	A realistic story about an Egyptian grandfather (who prays) who goes to visit his grandson in America (who doesn't pray). They have a close	

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by Dr. Freda Shamma

			relationship even though they live so far apart.	
McCloskey, Robert	<i>Blueberries for Sal</i>	**	Sal and her mother go to one side of Blueberry Hill to pick berries, while Mother Bear and her cub do the same thing on the other side of the hill. Then the mothers and children get mixed up.	
McKee, David	<i>Who is Mrs. Green?</i>	***	An amusing circular tale of cause and effect, great for classroom discussion. Jennifer's mother is cross with her, and her friend says it's because of Mrs. Green (who made Mr. Williams grumpy, who then pushed Bruce, who then ... until Jennifer's mother yelled at her).	
Milne, A.A.	<i>The Pooh Story Book</i>	*	These classic stories of a stuffed bear "of very little brain" are full of enjoyable lessons about helping others, being kind, etc.	
Mogensen, Jan	<i>Kakalambalala: An African Tale</i>	*	One by one the great animals of Africa set out for a special mountaintop, only to fail due to their hurry. Finally, the turtle with his slow and steady pace is able to successfully return with the name of a magic tree. Excellent illustrations of many different African animals.	
Morris, Ann	<i>Grandma Hekmatt Remembers: An Arab-American Family Story</i>	**	Many facts are learned about Egyptian Americans in this photo-picture book. The children have a good relationship with their grandparents and all the family is active in the masjid.	
Mortenson, Greg and Susan L Roth	<i>Listen to the Wind: The story of Dr. Greg &amp; three Cups of Tea</i>	*	A nice adaptation of the original <i>Three cups of Tea</i> book, aimed at young children. Each of the books – this one, one for young readers, and the original – contain much of the same material but at the same time have enjoyable differences, so it is worthwhile to read all three.	
Nagy, Luqman	<i>My Islamic Village: My Hausa Village</i>	*	All the books in the "My Islamic Village" series are informative, well illustrated, and contain relevant maps. This series is sufficiently advanced for report writing in 4th – 6th grades.	
Nagy, Luqman	<i>My Islamic Village: My Moroccan Village</i>	*	(see above)	
Nagy, Luqman	<i>My Islamic Village: My Turkish Village</i>	*	(see above)	
Nagy, Luqman	<i>My Islamic Village: My Yemeni Village</i>	*	(see above)	
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	<i>Maudie in the Middle</i>	*	Maudie is the middle of seven children and she feels like her mother never spends enough time with only her. Maudie has all the feelings of the middle child who thinks both her older and younger siblings have it made, while she gets the worst of everything. However, after various mishaps, her responsible help results in Maudie knowing her own special place in her family.	
Nikly, Michelle <i>Illustrated by Jean Claverie</i>	<i>The Perfume of Memory</i>	*	A tale of courage and character that shows the power of a young girl who works hard and does what is right. Beautiful "Arab" illustrations.	

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Nivola, Claire	<i>Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai</i>	*	This is the true story of a Kenyan woman who founded the Green Belt Movement in her country. Most of the women in the illustrations wear Islamic dress and hijab, although no mention is made of Islam in the text. "When we see that we are part of the problem," she tells the women, "We can become part of the solution."
Numeroff, Laura	<i>Would I Trade My Parents?</i>	**	A little boy wishes his parents would let him do things his friends' parents allow, but then reminds himself of how special his parents are and what he likes to do with them.
Osborne, Mary Pope	<i>Magic Tree House series</i>	**	The series contains 22 books that are easy to read, engaging, and informative and cover different geographical locations and historical areas.
Osborne, Mary Pope	<i>Season of the Sandstorms: #34 of The Magic Tree House Series</i>	**	Children love all of this adventure series which takes a brother and sister to different important historical events. This one is particularly good for Muslims as the children end up taking a treasure (which turns out to be a book) to the House of Wisdom during the Golden Age of Baghdad 1200 years ago.
Osborne, Will and Mary Pope	<i>Magic Tree House Research Guide</i>	***	Written for the same age readers and are nonfiction companions to some of the books.
Parish, Peggy	<i>Amelia Bedelia (series)</i>	**	Amelia Bedelia is an immigrant housekeeper who has many very funny encounters with the English language. Readers laugh with her, not at her, because she is warm and caring and is always looking out for the needs of others.
Park, Barbara	<i>Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus</i> And other titles in the <i>Junie B. Jones</i> series	*	Very funny books for young readers. Although they are not about her family, Junie's mother and father are present when needed.
Passen, Lisa	<i>Uncle's New Suit: (A Sort of True Story)</i>	**	A great, humorous story about a very large family (lots of aunts and uncles) who are excited about the relative who gets a job in an office – one that requires a suit. Although he doesn't have the money to buy one, his family rushes him to the store and while he is trying a suit on, they come up with a plan to buy him the suit without embarrassing him.
Paterson, Katherine	<i>The Smallest Cow in the World</i>	*	An easy to read story about Marvin who misses the family's mean cow when it is sold. His family is loving and helpful as he copes by imagining a pet cow that can fit into his hand.
Radwan, Hassan <i>Illustrated by M. Ishaq</i>	<i>Short Islamic Plays for Children (2 volumes)</i>	**	Engaging small plays suitable for younger children in an Islamic school to perform.
Rumford, James	<i>Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad</i>	**	This beautifully illustrated picture book tells of a boy's love of Arabic calligraphy as the letters glide and sweep, leap and dance to the silent music in his head. His hero is Yakut, a calligrapher who was living in Baghdad in 1258 when the Mongols attacked.

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Rumford, James	<i>Traveling Man: The Journey of Ibn Battuta</i>	**	The story of this famous traveler is woven into the beautiful illustrations, using a 'ribbon' to move the story from place to place. A picture book that is appealing to all ages.	
Rylant, Cynthia	<i>Missing May</i>	*	Summer misses her Aunt May, with whom she's lived most of her life, and tries to help her Uncle Ob who is even more devastated by his wife's death. The family lived in a run down trailer in the Appalachian hills, which seems a wonderful place to Summer because of the love she finds from her kin.	
Rylant, Cynthia	<i>The Relatives Came</i>	**	Mayhem and glee result when distant relatives show up for a long visit. Even the smallest impact is noted, as the child notes that while everyone is sleeping, he can hear, "... all that new breathing."	
Rylant, Cynthia	<i>When I Was Young in the Mountains</i>	**	Reminiscences of growing up with grandparents in rural Appalachia, which evokes the love of a way of life and of a family.	
Shepard, Aaron	<i>The Gifts of Wali Dad: A Tale of India and Pakistan</i>	*	A simple grass-cutter is content with the little he has and decides to give away the little he has saved to the noblest lady in the land. She in turn gives him a larger gift, which he then wants to give to someone else. This is a funny story, and teaches that you do not have to be rich to be happy.	
Sobol, Donald	<i>Encyclopedia Brown: Boy Detective [book 1]</i>	*	Leroy Brown has an encyclopedic brain for trivia that helps him solve mysteries and crimes. All the clues he uses to help his neighbors and the police chief (his father) are given in the book, so readers can also try to solve the mysteries.	
Stamaty, Mark Alan	<i>Alia's Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq</i>	**	The true story of a librarian who saved 30,000 books by removing them from the library in Basra, days before the library was burned to the ground during the fighting. It is told in comic book format, but with more information than Jeanette Winter's book.	
Steig, William	<i>Doctor De Soto</i>	*	Dr. De Soto is a dentist and a mouse who, with the aid of his wife, treats animals smaller and larger than himself. They cleverly figure out how to help a suffering fox without being eaten in return.	
Steig, William	<i>Sylvester and the Magic Pebble</i>	*	Sylvester is a donkey who wishes he were a rock, while holding a magic pebble. For the year he remains a rock, he misses his family, and they hunt and hunt for him, until finally one day they find the pebble and unwittingly help him return to being a donkey.	<b>M</b>
Swanberg, Jan and Dolores Johnson	<i>The Best Grandma Ever</i>	*	#23 of the <i>Hooked on Phonics</i> small books, the little girl enjoys visiting her grandmother. Illustrations include both parents and grandparents.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Thompson, Colin	<i>How to Live Forever</i>	**	The illustrations are the story. There is a library with every book ever written. At night the shelves come to life with wit, wisdom and boundless imagination. A young boy looks for a book on how to live forever, but learns that it is better to live normally.	
Tillage, Leon Walter	<i>Leon's Story</i>	**	This is an autobiography suitable for third graders, told in simple style by a man who grew up in a very segregated time in the South. We feel what it was like to not be allowed in certain places, to be beaten if you drank from the 'whites only' water fountain.	
Wang, Rosalind C.	<i>The Fourth Question: A Chinese Tale</i>	*	A dutiful son goes off to visit a wise man to find out how to take care of his mother. Along the way, he meets three others who also have questions. In deciding to fulfill his promise to them, he gets their questions answered but not his.	
Wells, Rosemary	<i>Hazel's Amazing Mother</i>	**	When Hazel gets bullied, her mother literally flies off to save her (courtesy of a very strong wind). "How did you do it?" asks Hazel. "It must have been the power of love," answers her mother.	
Wells, Rosemary	<i>Lincoln and His Boys</i>	**	A well told story based on letters and facts known about Abraham Lincoln and his two sons.	
Wells, Rosemary	<i>Shy Charles</i>	*	Charles' mother and father are frustrated because Charles is too shy to even say 'hello' or 'thank you,' but when his babysitter gets hurt, he says all the right things. Good family interaction. Picture book.	
Williams, Karen Lynn and Khadra Mohammad	<i>Four Feet, Two Sandals</i>	**	In sorting through donated shoes, each of two Afghani girls in a refugee camp find one of a pair of sandals. Their decision to share the shoes is the beginning of a wonderful friendship.	
Willis, Jeanne	<i>Susan Laughs</i>	*	Susan has lots of fun, laughing, singing, swimming, etc. It's only in the last illustration that we see that she uses a wheelchair. Good parents.	<b>D</b>
Winter, Jeanette	<i>The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq</i>	**	A picture book that tells the story of the Muslim librarian who saved most of the books in the Basra library.	
Yolen, Jane	<i>Off We Go!</i>	*	All the animals love to go to Grandmother's house "Wherever it is found – in hole, in tree, or underground, in web or bog or in a nest-why Grandma's house is always best." Lovely water color illustrations in this picture book.	
Yolen, Jane	<i>The Girl Who Cried Flowers and Other Tales</i>	*	Five tales each with an underlying message: a child's love conquers fear; the acceptance of the patterns of life, including death; the madness of pride; the power of kindness.	
Wolf, Bernard	<i>Coming to America: A Muslim Family's Story</i>	*	The true story of an Egyptian family's struggle, and family cohesion in immigrating to the U.S. Note: There are a few minor errors about Islam.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Zeman, Ludmila	<i>Sindbad: From the Tales of the Thousand and One Nights</i>	*	Absolutely beautiful illustrations in this picture book, with the story slightly adapted. The only problem with the book is that all references to Allah are taken out. It is fate that has helped him, and the lesson he learns is that there is “no greater reward than love.”	
Zhang, Song Nan	<i>The Children of China: An Artist's Journey</i>	*	Included in this beautiful book are children from the Muslim peoples of China, the Hui, Kazakhs and Tajiks. Interesting information about each group of people is also included.	
<b>Grades 4 – 6</b>				
Aamundson, Nina Ring	<i>Two Short and One Long</i>	***	The friendship of two Norwegian boys is threatened when one befriends a new boy, an Afghan refugee. Good family ties; antiracist message.	
Aiken, Joan	<i>Arabel and Mortimer</i>	*	This is one of several books about a good little girl named Arabel and her pet raven Mortimer, who is not good. Among other bad habits, he eats just about everything, including tape recorders, door knobs, etc. The family is good, and the stories are silly and fun to read.	
Alcott, Louisa May	<i>Little Women</i>	*	The first of several books about the March family, in particular the daughter, Jo, who longs to become a writer. An American classic about a loving family going through some hard times.	
Alexander, Lloyd	<i>The Book of Three (Book one of the Chronicles of Prydain)</i>	**	Fantasy. Two young people, one an assistant pig-keeper and the other a princess, are off to fight evil powers that want to take over the world, assisted by a dwarf, a bard, and a twiggy creature named Gurgi.	<b>M</b>
Alexander, Lloyd	<i>The Iron Ring</i>	*	This fantasy, based on (India) Indian myths and legends, tells of Tamar, a young king full of honor and pride, who sets off on a journey to satisfy a debt. Along the way he is joined by various talking animals and a very smart but poor young woman. A romance is there, but within proper boundaries.	<b>M</b>
Alexander, Lloyd	<i>The Marvelous Misadventures of Sebastian</i>	*	Young apprenticed fiddler Sebastian loses his job and is on his own to survive however he can in an 18th century setting. Along the way, he becomes a traveling partner with a princess in disguise. Of course they fall in love, but he refuses to marry her until he can come to her as a master violinist. And as for her, she learns how to be a real person and a princess who can help her people.	
Alexander, Lloyd	<i>The Wizard in the Tree</i>	*	Although it does not meet the usual criteria to be on this list, the wizard's refusal to grant wishes because humans ask for unimportant things like riches and misuse whatever they have, makes this a very wise book. It is the heroine's good sense, practicality, loyalty, and bravery that saves the wizard's life and finds the real villain.	<b>M</b>

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Anno, Mitsumasa	<i>Anno's Twice Told Tale: The Fisherman and His Wife &amp; The Four Clever Brothers by the Brothers Grimm &amp; Mr. Fox</i>	*	The top two-thirds of each page is part of a Brothers Grimm tale with illustration. The bottom of the pages is the story of Mr. Fox who is pretending to read the tale to his son because he is ashamed that he doesn't know how to read. The second Grimm tale ends with the four virtuous brothers going back home to live with their father "in great happiness."	
Avi	<i>Windcatcher</i>	*	Eleven year old Tony spends the summer with his grandmother by the sea and learns to sail a boat.	
Babbitt, Natalie	<i>Goody Hall</i>	*	A kind of Gothic mystery story, the new tutor helps his student discover what happened to his father. The boy's parents are misguided but loving.	
Babbitt, Natalie	<i>The Search for Delicious</i>	**	Gaylen, the 12 year old King's messenger, is conducting a poll among every inhabitant of the land. The silly argument over what food is most delicious is a witty telling of how mankind is eternally inclined to go to war.	
Banks, Lynne Reid	<i>The Indian in the Cupboard</i>	*	Omri gets a three inch high plastic Indian as a birthday gift from his friend, but when he puts it into an old cupboard that he has also received as a gift, the Indian becomes alive – a three inch human. OK family interaction. There are 3 books in this series.	<b>M</b>
Birney, Betty G.	<i>The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs</i>	**	Eben wishes he could see the seven wonders of the world, but his father challenges him to find seven wonders in his own small town. As he searches for them, he gets to know his family, friends, and neighbors as they share with him their own personal wonder - anything from a singing saw to a table floating in the cemetery.	
Brink, Carol Ryrie	<i>Caddie Woodlawn</i>	**	An American classic based on the true childhood of the author's grandmother, Caddie, who grew up as an adventurous tomboy in the 1860s in western Wisconsin.	
Boston, L.M.	<i>The Stones of Green Knowe</i>	*	The children who have lived in the house Green Knowe are 'others' to the child presently living there. This last book is about the first boy who lived in it, and by the end of the book, he has met all the other children. Each child has his/her own story plus interaction with the 'others.' All the books are recommended except <i>Treasure of Green Knowe</i> , which has a racist tint to its treatment of a black boy who is servant to the blind girl living there. The only magic in the stories is the stone chairs that transport them through time.	<b>M</b>
Burnett, Frances Hodgson	<i>A Little Princess</i>	*	This is the classic riches-to-rags-to-riches story of a wealthy pampered girl who is mistreated when she descends into poverty after her father dies. Her strong character enables her to deal honorably with the scorn and mistreatment of others.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Byars, Betsy	<i>Summer of the Swans</i>	**	Except for the dysfunctional father and new boyfriend added at the end, this is a wonderful story about the love and responsibility shown by a teen toward her mentally retarded brother, who wanders off in search of the swans at a nearby pond, only to become totally lost and afraid.	<b>D</b>
Calder, Alexander	<i>Selected Fables of Jean de la Fontaine</i>	*	Many/most of these fables are Aesop tales and, therefore, present positive morals. The fables are put in verse, making them highly enjoyable poems to read and discuss.	
Chocolate, Debbi	<i>NEATE to the Rescue!</i>	*	Naimah's mother is running for reelection to the city council. She and her four friends (2 male, 2 female) help out, sometime successfully, sometimes disastrously.	
Cleary, Beverly Author is best known for her <i>Henry Huggins</i> and <i>The Beezus and Ramona</i> stories, but they are not included here because Henry's best friend is a dog, and Beezus' sister is portrayed as an annoying pest.	<i>Ellen Tebbits</i>	**	Third grade Ellen is worried because she doesn't have a best friend, but then Austine moves to town and helps her deal with that teasing, mischief making Otis who is also in her class. The girls have very different types of mothers, but both have traits that make them good mothers.	
Cleary, Beverly	<i>Emily's Runaway Imagination</i>	**	Emily lives on a farm in the early 1920s. The book centers on her trying to get a library for her small town in Oregon. Children will enjoy the funny misadventures Emily gets into as she waits for the books to arrive for the new library.	
Cleary, Beverly	<i>Otis Spofford</i>	*	Otis likes to play practical jokes on his schoolmates, but doesn't like it when they turn the tables and play tricks on him.	
Clements, Andrew This author has a keen 'ear' for school age kids, but some books have unIslamic aspects such as girlfriends.	<i>The Jacket</i>	**	When a white boy accuses an African American boy of stealing his jacket, he realizes he is prejudiced. He and his mother have some prejudice, and his father is worse. He makes himself apologize and learns that he had many misconceptions he needs to correct. Good family relations in both boys' homes.	
Clements, Andrew	<i>Janitor Boy</i>	**	Fifth grader Jack is embarrassed when he has to attend the school where his father is a janitor. His parents are very wise when they learn how embarrassed he is. His father explains how he did not want to be just out for money as his father was, and what led him to become a janitor. Jack ends up proud to have this man as his father.	
Clements, Andrew	<i>The Landry News</i>	*	Fifth grader Cara Landry writes her own newspaper and learns that a good journalist tempers truth with mercy. Excellent, except focus is on kids with divorced parents.	
Clements, Andrew	<i>No Talking</i>	**	The fifth grade boys and girls are having a contest to see which group can go the longest without saying anything (exception – 3 words to an adult). This funny book is about language and thoughts, the power of words.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Clements, Andrew	<i>A Week in the Woods</i>	*	Another fifth grade boy comes from an extremely wealthy family. He has to transfer from an elite private school to a rural public school. His parents are loving but too involved in far flung businesses. The people at his new school assume he is a stuck up rich kid, but he is actually a very nice kid, which everyone learns by the end of the book.	
Clements, Andrew	<i>Room One: A Mystery or Two</i>	**	Ted is a sixth grader in a small town who loves to read mysteries and wants to solve the mystery of the girl's face in the abandoned house. He's a nice kid in a good family who likes to help others and doesn't mind working on the family farm. The town welcomes the opportunity to help the widow of a soldier killed in Iraq.	
Clifford, Eth	<i>Will Somebody Please Marry My Sister</i>	*	In 1925 Brooklyn, Abel wants his older sister to get married so that he can have a room of his own. His immigrant family has its own rules from 'back home' about the older sister having to marry first and that prospective spouses come to dinner in order in order to meet the girl. Good family relations. The middle sister has a boyfriend, but they spend most of their time together inside the family home.	
Clifton, Lucille	<i>My Friend Jacob</i>	**	8-yr old Sam's friend Jacob is 16 and mentally retarded. The story focuses on Jacob's particular talents and how Sam tries to teach Jacob some practical life skills. The mothers of the two boys are involved in their lives.	<b>D</b>
Collins, Suzanne	<i>Gregor the Overlander (Book 1)</i> and <i>The Underland Chronicles</i>	***	This is an excellent series about 11-yr old Gregor who loves his 2-yr old sister and volunteers to spend his summer taking care of her when his father disappears and his mother has to work to support them. Gregor follows his sister down a drain pipe into the underland where they encounter gigantic cockroaches and rats. The family interaction is especially good as they care for and help one another.	
Conrad, Pam	<i>My Daniel</i>	**	A grandmother tells her grandchildren about her life with her brother, Daniel, growing up in Nebraska and finding dinosaur bones.	
Corder, Zizou	<i>Lionboy</i>	**	This is another excellent series. Charlie, whose mother is white and whose father is black, can communicate with cats. Talking to the local alley cats helps him track his kidnapped parents. Along the way he befriends some circus lions who agree to help him if he will help them get back to Africa. His parents, who know he will be trying to find them, try to escape so they can find him. This is book #1 of a trilogy, and you will want all three before you start the first.	
Curry, Jane L.	<i>The Great Smith House Hustle</i>	*	A good mystery with good family relations. The Smith children discover something sinister and help save their grandmother's house from being sold.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

D'Adamo, Francesco	<i>Iqbal</i>	*	This is a fictional account of the real Iqbal Masih who was the courageous, abused child carpet weaver. He was able to challenge the inhuman treatment of child carpet weavers in Pakistan and was killed by the 'masters' when he was 13.
DeJong, Meindert	<i>Shadrach</i>	*	The somewhat slow moving story of a young Dutch boy who thinks his pet bunny, Shadrach, is a miracle. Told from his thoughtful 5-year old point of view, with love and help from his parents and grandparents and even occasionally from his older brother.
Doherty, Gillian and Anna Claybourne	<i>The Usborne Book of Peoples of the World</i>	*	The sections on Africa, The Middle East, and Asia all give good coverage of Muslim areas.
Du Prau, Jeanne	<i>The City of Ember Series of 3 books</i>	*	11-yr. old girl and boy are friends and thoughtful heroes. They are part of a generation of people born and raised in an underground city, designed to save humanity from extinction after a world holocaust. After they are able to lead their people above ground, they must learn how to live on the earth, and the village that welcomes them has to learn how to share food and knowledge with a group larger than themselves. A very thoughtful series about doing what's right even when it's hard.
Eckert, Allan W.	<i>Hawk's Hill and Return to Hawk's Hill</i>	*	Six year old Ben is quiet among people, but has a way with animals, including the ability to mimic their sounds exactly. In the first book, Ben takes refuge with a wild badger, and in the second book he is rescued by and lives for a while with a tribe of Cree Indians.
Ellis, Deborah	<i>The Breadwinner</i>	*	An eleven-year old girl is forced to cut her hair and pretend to be a boy in order to help the rest of her family survive in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. The book is exciting and well written. The only problem is that there is no mention of Allah or Islam except for one short sentence. The book is not Islam bashing, but it is obviously not written by a Muslim.
Ellis, Deborah	<i>Mud City</i>	*	The third book of the <i>Breadwinner</i> trilogy about an Afghani girl who has fled her country and now leaves the refugee camp to try to reach Paris on her own. She fails but finds she can help other refugees in the camp.
Ellis, Deborah	<i>Parvana's Journey</i>	*	The sequel to <i>The Breadwinner</i> .
Estes, Eleanor	<i>The Moffats</i>	*	An old American classic, about the four children, aged five, nine, twelve, and fifteen, in the Moffat family. Good family relations. The only problem is the importance of Christmas and Halloween.
Farley, Walter and Steven Farley	<i>The Young Black Stallion: A Wild and Untameable Spirit!</i>	*	"The most famous fictional horse of the century" escapes a fierce band of raiders and begins a dangerous journey in Arabia that tests his strength, speed, and will to survive. A very exciting story in an extensive series about the Black Stallion.

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Farley, Walter	<i>The Black Stallion</i>	*	The young horse is captured and put on a boat headed for the West. When the boat capsizes, he and a youth survive and learn to trust each other.	
Farmer, Nancy	<i>The Ear, the Eye and the Arm: a 21st Century Adventure</i>	**	Three children living in Zimbabwe in the future are kidnapped. They escape to a walled area where the people live according to old African ways. Very exciting.	
Forbes, Esther	<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	***	Engaging historical fiction about a boy involved in the Boston Tea Party and events leading to the American Revolution. Although Johnny is an orphan, good family interactions surround him. A must read for American history classes.	
Funke, Cornelia	<i>Igraine the Brave</i>	*	12-yr old Igraine wants to be a knight while her brother wants to be a good magician like their parents. Her parents are supportive and make her a magical suit of armor, but they argue in vain to keep her safely in the castle. She decides it is up to her to save them all from the greedy baron.	<b>M</b>
Gates, Doris	<i>Blue Willow</i>	**	An American classic. Janey's father is a migrant worker in the cotton fields, and they are very poor. She yearns for a real house where they can stay as long as they want to. Her step-mother and father love, trust, and help each other and Janey deal bravely with whatever happens.	
Gilchrist, Cherry	<i>Stories from The Silk Road</i>	*	A fictitious trip along the Silk Road gives a lot of true information about the geography and cultures along its way. Folk tales from the major areas include stories from predominately Muslim areas.	
Goudge, Elizabeth	<i>The Little White Horse</i>	*	This is an old-fashion story about an orphan who goes to live with her uncle in the ancestral home. Her uncle is good and kind, but his pride has led him to an unhappy bachelor's life. Because she is good and kind, she is able to win over all the bad people and give sad stories happy endings.	
Hale, Lucretia P.	<i>The Peterkin Papers</i>	*	Written in the late 1800s, it tells of the antics of the most hopelessly bumbling of respectable American families. The family is composed of good natured, helpful incompetents who cannot even figure out that if Mother spoiled her cup of tea by putting salt in it, the solution is to pour a new cup of tea.	
Heide, Florence Parry	<i>Sami and the Time of the Troubles</i>	*	This is written as a picture book, but the subject matter makes it more appropriate for this age. Sami lives in his basement during the bombing of Beirut.	
Henry, Marguerite	<i>San Domingo: The Medicine Hat Stallion</i>	*	A great story for lovers of horse stories. The boy's father is cold, but the son grows to understand the reason why. The boy joins the newly formed Pony Express and helps to keep the state of California in the Union.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Holt, Kimberly Willis	<i>Dancing in the Cadillac Light</i>	*	In a small town in Texas during the summer of 1968, Jaynell and her sister cope with their grandmother's death and their possibly senile grandfather moving in with their family. The sisters learn to not look down on the very poor because their grandfather was himself a 'poor white' earlier in his life.	
Hoose, Phillip	<i>Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice</i>	**	Well documented true story of the teen who was the first to object to sitting in the back of a bus, and takes her case to court.	
Hutchinson, Uthman and Aziza Hutchinson	<i>Invincible Abdullah 1: The Deadly Mountain Revenge</i>	**	An exciting adventure story, British born Abdullah visits his cousins in northern Pakistan and gets involved with drug dealers and glaciers. This book also has a workbook for use in English class.	
Hutchinson, Uthman and Aziza Hutchinson	<i>Invincible Abdullah 2: The Car Theft Kidnapping</i>	**	Abdullah has this adventure in England. Also has a workbook.	
Hutchinson, Uthman and Aziza Hutchinson	<i>Invincible Abdullah 3: The Mystery of the Missing Pearls</i>	**	Abdullah goes to visit friends in Malaysia for this adventure. Also has a workbook.	
Hutchinson, Uthman	<i>Invincible Abdullah 4: The Wilderness Survival</i>	**	Abdullah and two friends crash their plane in the wilderness and have to survive with minimal tools.	
Ibbotson, Eva	<i>The Secret of Platform 13</i>	*	Ogres, hags, wizards, and humans populate this fantasy about the rescue of the prince of the magical kingdom who has been kidnapped by humans in our world. The king, queen, and prince are as good and kind as rulers ought to be.	<b>M</b>
Jester, Norton	<i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i>	***	A very bored Milo enters a world where words and numbers are supremely and wittily important. He is accompanied by his watchdog (who has a clock in his stomach). An excellent book for the teacher to read aloud, it is both funny and instructive in its use of puns and other figures of speech.	
King-Smith, Dick	<i>Spider Sparrow</i>	*	A small, intellectually disabled baby is abandoned in a lambing pen and adopted by a kind shepherd and his wife. Nicknamed 'Spider' because of the way he moved on hands and feet, he grows up happy and loved, although he gets his share of teasing by the children in the town. His talent is talking to and being accepted by all animals and birds. The book concludes with his death at age 16, so it is a rather sad story.	<b>D</b>
Konigsburg, E.L. Not all of this author's books are recommended, such as <i>The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place</i> .	<i>Altogether, One at a Time</i>	*	Four short stories about kids who learn that things are not always all good or all bad. In the first story Jason is forced to invite a 'nothing' boy to his party, only to find out the most popular kid in school actually enjoys talking to the 'nothing' boy.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Konigsburg, E.L.	<i>Throwing Shadows</i>	***	Five short stories about five different youth who learn something important about themselves as they learn to appreciate differences and the pleasure of helping others. Excellent for class discussion.	
Konigsburg, E.L.	<i>The View from Saturday</i>	*	The sixth grade Academic Bowl team of 4 is a surprising team, beating not only the other sixth grade classes, but seventh and eighth grade champion classes as well. Each of the 4 members has their own story, which is intertwined with the others.	
Lawson, Robert	<i>Rabbit Hill</i>	*	All the animals are excited because a new family is moving into the abandoned farm house. The couple that moves in loves animals and plants a garden large enough to feed them and all the rabbits, deer, mice, etc who lived around them. Written in 1944, it is as lovable and relevant today.	
Lenski, Lois	<i>Strawberry Girl</i>	**	Everyone who loves the American Girls series should love this book and the others in Lenski's Regional Stories. Written in 1945, it features Birdie Boyer, a Florida Cracker who lives with her family on a flatwoods farm and raises strawberries. Birdie's father doesn't drink, but their neighbor does, and they have to be on the alert when he gets drunk.	
Lisle, Janet Taylor	<i>Afternoon of the Elves</i>	*	A rather sad story about two girls who become friends. One comes from an average loving family and has friends at school; the other is the school outcast whose father has gone and who staunchly, silently, and alone takes care of her very sick mother.	
Lowry, Lois	<i>Anastasia has the Answers</i>	*	13 year old Anastasia determines to learn how to climb a rope although she is miserably uncoordinated. Good family interaction.	
McCloskey, Robert	<i>Homer Price</i>	**	This American classic was written in 1943, but its characters are as wonderful today as they were then. Homer is a polite, clever small town kid, willing to help whenever he's asked and able to find solutions to problems the town adults can't figure out.	
McKinley, Robin	<i>The Hero and the Crown</i>	*	Although there is the boy-loves-girl element, the main story of this fantasy is about the daughter of a kind and loving king who goes off to save her country and people, even though they have never accepted her because she is 'not quite human.'	<b>M</b>
McKissack, Patricia	<i>Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman?</i>	**	The story of a slave who was set free, who struggled to keep her family together, and later went all over the country, speaking against slavery.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Miles, Betty	<i>Just the Beginning</i>	**	Cathy's lower middle class family lives in an upper middle class area. She has to deal with the embarrassment of her mother going to work as a cleaning lady and the pressures of living up to her highly accomplished older sister. The situations portrayed are real issues, and the resolution of them shows good family interaction.
Milton, Hilary H.	<i>Tornado!</i>	*	An exciting adventure story about a mother and her 14-yr old son and 7-yr old daughter who get caught in the countryside in a tornado. The boy is responsible and able to help his injured mother and his sister who is bitten by a copperhead snake.
Mortenson, Greg and David Oliver Relin adapted by Sarah Thompson	<i>The Young Reader's Edition: Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World ... One Child at a Time</i>	**	This is based on the book of the same name written for adults. This adaptation includes more information about Mortenson's family, and much is from the perspective of his 12 year old daughter. Interesting, inspiring and motivating.
Murrow, Liza Ketchum	<i>The Ghost of Lost Island</i>	*	Gabe finally gets to help his grandfather shear sheep on Lost Island. He forges a bond with his older sister as they deal with the nightmare of seeing a real ghost (who turns out to be an old woman who wants to stay hidden).
Myers, Walter Dean	<i>Fallen Angels</i>	*	The story of a 17-yr old who joined the army and was sent to Vietnam. A realistic treatment of the moral questions that involvement in the war brings up in the soldiers who wonder why they are supposed to shoot other soldiers just as young and just as afraid as they.
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	<i>Bodies in the Bessledorf Hotel</i>	*	Bernie is part of a loving family that has suffered a lot of hard times. Now his father is manager of a hotel, and someone is trying to sabotage his job by having people pretend to be dead in their hotel rooms and then disappearing.
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	<i>Sang Spell</i>	*	This fantasy is about a boy who mysteriously enters a hidden community of Melungeons high in the Appalachian hills. It contains a reference to the Islamic/Jewish/ Andalusian background of these people.
Nesbit, E.	<i>The Railway Children</i>	**	This 1906 children's classic is still fun to read. The three children in the family have fun, and help their mother without seeming too 'goody goody'. Their favorite fun is to run down to the train station and wave at the trains as they go by. After their father goes missing, the family comes together to help one another cope.

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Nix, Garth	<i>The Seventh Tower (series): Vol. 1: The Fall</i>	*	13 year old Tal has to assume responsibility for his sick mother and younger siblings when his father is reported dead. In the search for a Sunstone which will enable him to do so, he discovers two other worlds, one above the dark veil in the bright light of the sun, and one below his seven tower castle at the icy bottom of the mountain. An exciting adventure, with some magical creatures. There are six 'cliff hanger' books in the series.	<b>M</b>
Park, Linda Sue	<i>Archer's Quest</i>	*	A Korean-American boy meets an ancient Korean hero-King and learns the value of practice and dedication while helping the hero return to his correct century.	
Park, Linda Sue	<i>A Single Shard</i>	**	A beautifully written book about an orphan boy in 12th century Korea who begins by living with a handicapped man under a bridge, but through dreams, hard work, and respect for elders, finds himself a home.	
Paterson, Katherine	<i>The King's Equal</i>	***	When the arrogant but handsome, intelligent, and wealthy prince finds a woman he concedes is his equal, she turns him down because he, by his own admission, is less than she. The prince must live for a year in poverty in the woods, as she did, in order to become worthy of her.	
Pendergraft, Patricia	<i>Brushy Mountain</i>	***	13-yr old Arney is a good kid from a family that practices the Christian faith they follow. Although he thinks he 'hates' the meanest man in town, he somehow finds that he ends up helping him. He learns that one should do good, even if no one else is willing to do so, and even if the recipient is ungrateful. An interesting, non-moralizing story.	
Place, Francois	<i>The Old Man Mad About Drawing: A Tale of Hokusai</i>	*	A delightful tale about a small boy in Japan who becomes friends with Hokusai, the real-life famous Japanese illustrator and printmaker. The book illustrations are delightful, and some of Hokusai's prints are included.	
Pomerantz, Charlotte	<i>If I Had a Paka</i>	**	Delightful poems in 11 languages with translation. Includes Swahili and Indonesian.	
Pomerantz, Charlotte	<i>Thunderboom: Poems for Everyone</i>	*	Many unpredictable and joyful poems, and nothing overtly unIslamic.	
Radin, Ruth Yaffe	<i>All Joseph Wanted</i>	**	Joseph loves his mother very much and likes to help her, but he really wants to find someone other than himself to teach her how to read.	
Robinson, Barbara	<i>My Brother Louis Measures Worms: And Other Louis Stories</i>	**	When the narrator is ten, her brother Louis, age 5 (going on 30), drives the car because his mother doesn't like to drive, and he found out that he is able to. The mother is wonderfully absent minded and vague about much in life, but both parents love their children, and they love each other. Funny things happen, in an almost logical way – at least according to mother's logic.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Rodda, Emily	<i>Deltora Quest (series); Book 1: The Forests of Silence</i>	*	An exciting fantasy series where 16-year old Lief sets out to recover the stolen gems that have for years kept his country safe. There are eight books in the series. Family is marginal, but good.	<b>M</b>
Ruelle, Karen Gray	<i>The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Rescued Jews During the Holocaust</i>	***	It is unfortunate that this factual and important event is put into a picture book that looks like it is for young children. Every Muslim and non Muslim should read this book, and it should be discussed in school. The Muslims of Paris helped the Jews, as good Muslims should, when their lives were threatened by the Nazis. It is told as a documentary, using what the few accounts that survived reveal about what was done and how the Muslims were able to help so many Jews.	
Spinelli, Jerry	<i>The Library Card</i>	**	Four humorous and tender stories about how a library card can change lives. Parents are shown as positive and supporting.	
Spinelli, Jerry	<i>Loser</i>	**	The boy in the book isn't good at anything, a real loser – but he doesn't know it. He has the support of a loving family, he is a happy kid, and in the end a hero.	
Terrell, French	<i>Operation Redwood</i>	*	Quiet 12-year old Julian Carter-Li joins forces with his best friend and a girl to try to save some old growth redwood trees. The problems they face are realistic, but the happy ending is improbable. The girl's family is good and conscientious.	
Voigt, Cynthia	<i>Dacey's Song</i>	**	Eighth grader Dicey takes good care of her younger brothers and sister when her Mom gets sick. They now live with their grandmother who, despite her eccentricities, is full of concern for her family. <i>Homecoming</i> is the prequel to this novel.	
Voigt, Cynthia	<i>Izzy, Willy-Nilly</i>	**	This is a riveting story about driving drunk and the devastating consequences it can wreak. As a result of the car crash, Izzy's leg is amputated, and she has to deal with friends who no longer are friends and a girl who wants to be her friend but doesn't know how.	<b>D</b>
Waters, Fiona	<i>The Brave Sister: A Story from the Arabian Nights</i>	*	A beautiful picture book and a well-written story. The book's publisher writes, "Once upon a time when magic still worked, Persia was ruled by a sultan who was a good and wise man, much loved by his people..." And so begins a magical, spellbinding tale, full of dervishes, talking birds, eternal fountains, and a brave and spirited sister.	<b>M</b>
Wiggin, Kate Douglas	<i>Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm</i>	*	An American classic (recommended by Mark Twain), about an irrepressible, good-natured, passionate girl with remarkable spirit. Unlike in some other old fashioned books, the heroine is a realistic child. She gets into mischief and worries her elderly aunts, but still learns how to respect the elderly while living life to the fullest.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Winkler, Henry and Lin Oliver	<i>Hank Zipper: Niagara Falls, or Does It?</i>	**	This is one of several very funny stories about a boy with dyslexia. In this one, his parents don't yet recognize that he has dyslexia, so they think he is just lazy, careless, etc., until a teacher at school recognizes his problem and visits his parents. As with all in this series, Hank has friends who accept his disability without thinking of him as stupid or less than others.	<b>D</b>
Winkler, Henry and Lin Oliver	<i>Hank Zipper: The Zippity Zinger</i>	**	Hank is a very inventive kid whose projects often have funny results. His friends don't think his dyslexia makes him stupid or lazy. How they do this makes this an excellent story and a recommended book even though one of his friends is a girl.	<b>D</b>
Yeoman, John	<i>The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor</i>	*	A faithful retelling of the original story except all references to Allah and Islam are taken out.	
Yeoman, John	<i>Sleeping Ugly</i>	*	A wonderful retelling of the story of the princess who falls asleep until she is awakened by a kiss from a prince; a story where the ugly but good girl wins a good but poor prince.	
<b>Grades 6 – 9</b>				
Aiken, Joan	<i>Dido and Pa</i>	*	Dido is an enterprising, brave girl who does her best to be a dutiful daughter while not aiding her rascally Pa. Set in London during the time of good King Richard, Dido helps thwart the plan, of which her pa is a part, to assassinate the king.	
Alexander, Lloyd	<i>The First Two Lives of Lukas-Kasha</i>	*	A fun loving, never-do-well young man gets transported to a different world and learns to be a responsible help to others when he is proclaimed king.	
Alexander, Lloyd	<i>The Jedera Adventure</i>	***	This exciting adventure of an 18-yr old heroine takes place during the 1850s in the country of Jedera, which is a thinly disguised Mali. Timely remarks by the heroine's guardian tell the reader that there are good things and bad things, good people and bad in both Jedera and the heroine's home in Philadelphia. Her destination in Mali is the famous library (of real Timbuktu) where she returns a valuable copy of a book of medicinal herbs by Ibn Sina.	
Ayres, Katherine	<i>Macaroni Boy</i>	**	Set in the depression when Italians were the despised minority, Mike Costa is part of a close knit family that works together. He learns that fighting is not always the best way to resolve a problem or deal with your enemy.	
Ayres, Katherine	<i>Silver Dollar Girl</i>	*	Valentine runs away from her aunt's house in Pittsburgh to find her father in the silver mines of Colorado in 1885. She gets, and appreciates, help from various people along the way.	
Ayres, Katherine	<i>Stealing South: A Story of the Underground Railroad</i>	*	Will leaves his family, who are Underground Railroad workers in a small town in Ohio, to make his way as a peddler. While traveling in Kentucky, Will deals with moral issues about slavery, family duty, and friendship. The book shows how a person can be good to some while doing evil to others.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Baillie, Allan	<i>Little Brother</i>	**	Vithy's older brother rescues him from the vicious Khmer Rouge soldiers, but then they lose each other in the wild jungle. Vithy survives by remembering what he has learned from his father and from his brother, and learning who he can trust as he struggles to find his brother and the border in order to make it out of Cambodia.
Barrett, Tracy	<i>Cold in Summer</i>	*	This is a ghost story about Ariadne's adjustment to living in a very small town and the ghost who helps her, and in turn needs help from her.
Bauer, Marion Dane	<i>A Bear Named Trouble</i>	*	A realistic animal story about 10-yr old Jonathan, who practically lives at the Alaska Zoo where his father is a keeper, and a wild young brown bear known as Trouble, who wanders onto the zoo grounds.
Buss, Fran Leeper	<i>Journey of the Sparrows</i>	*	Maria, her sick little brother, and pregnant older sister are illegal immigrants from El Salvador living in Chicago. These siblings care for each other as they pray for their mother's safe arrival from El Salvador. A realistic look at the lives of underground immigrants.
Creech, Sharon	<i>The Wanderer</i>	*	13 year old Sophie goes with her three uncles and two cousins to sail across the Atlantic. Sophie's struggle to reclaim who she is inspires similar exploration from those around her as they discover the joys and trials of belonging to a family.
Crutcher, Chris	<i>Whale Talk</i>	**	TJ, a gifted student and athlete, decides to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's least popular students. A wonderful book, but please note its dark threads of child abuse.
DeFelice, Cynthia C.	<i>Under the Same Sky</i>	*	14-yr old Joe's father hires Mexican migrant workers for his farm. Joe goes from indifferent to admiration and understanding of their problems. Only drawback is he becomes interested in Luisa because she is pretty, and they share one kiss before she has to run off because she is an illegal alien.
Durrant, Lynda	<i>The Sun, the Rain, and the Apple Seed: a novel of Johnny Appleseed's life</i>	*	This man is an important part of American folk legend, and this novel does an excellent job of portraying this Bible-quoting, slightly simple minded idealist who sets off with his apple seeds to help feed the new settlers.
Franklin, Kristine L.	<i>Grape Thief</i>	*	12-yr old Slava Petrovich lives in a coal mining town in 1925. His close-knit family runs into trouble when his older brothers rough up a criminal who tries to court their sister. Every adult in town seems to drink too much, but drinking causes them nothing but trouble. The town is full of immigrants; the hero's family is Croatian.

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Franklin, Kristine L.	<i>Lone Wolf</i>	*	Perry lives in isolation with his divorced dad, a silent man who doesn't know how to communicate with his son. At first, Perry was a loner like his dad, but he is drawn to the warmth of a large family that moves in nearby.	
Funke, Cornelia	<i>Dragon Rider</i>	*	A fantasy about a boy who makes friends with a dragon and helps to find a safe place for dragons to hide from humans. The boy is an orphan, but he meets with and becomes attached to a good family.	
Garcia, Laura Gallego	<i>The Legend of the Wandering King</i>	***	The novel is based on the few facts known about the famous pre-Islamic poet Imru'l Qays. At the court of his father, the ruler of Kinda (in Arabia), he was known as the best poet, but then in one competition he is bested by an old man. Imru'l's jealousy gets the better of him, and his cruel revenge ends in the death of the old man. Grief stricken, he becomes the wandering king until he redeems himself.	
Giff, Patricia Reilly	<i>Pictures of Hollis Woods</i>	**	12-yr old Hollis is an orphan who has moved from foster home to foster home her whole life. She is now living with an aging artist. She finds the family she has been wishing for since she was five, but still is concerned for and looks after the old artist.	
Grove, Vicki	<i>The Fastest Friend in the West</i>	*	One overweight girl longs for acceptance at school, and a new student turns out to be homeless, living with her family in a station wagon. They both have caring families although the one mother pushes desserts and the father in the other family yells and acts out because he cannot support his family.	
Grover, Wayne	<i>Ali and the Golden Eagle</i>	*	A wonderful, true story about the author and Ali, a Saudi boy he befriends. The story focuses on Ali's golden eagle that they train to hunt. Ali's eagle is special because it is the only eagle known to have been tamed and taught to hunt.	
Hale, Marian	<i>The Truth about Sparrows</i>	*	During the depression, 12-yr old Sadie becomes poor. When her family moves to Texas to try to find work, she misses her best friend and hates to go to school where she is looked down on for being poor and her father is looked down on because of his polio-withered legs. Good family relations and good neighbor relations.	<b>D</b>
Hamilton, Virginia	<i>The House of Dies Drear</i>	**	Thomas and his family go to live in the house that the abolitionist Dies Drear made into an important station on the Underground Railroad. Excellent historical fiction, and the boy's parents are supportive of him.	
Hiaasen, Carl	<i>Hoot</i>	*	It's a case of big business versus an endangered species. Roy and his friends take on Mother Paula's All American Pancake House on behalf of cute burrowing owls. The new boy in school, Roy first tries diplomacy and talk, and finally trickery to stop being bullied. (description taken from Publisher)	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Ismail, Suzy	<i>The BFF Sisters: Jenna's New Friends</i>	*	Muslim girls make a new friend and learn about friendship.
Jacques, Brian	<i>Mossflower</i>	**	A prequel to <i>Redwall</i> , this book is a fantasy where mice, moles, otters, and squirrels are pitted against a cruel allegiance of wildcats, weasels, and stouts. An exciting story with no un-Islamic elements.
Johnson, Annabel and Edgar Johnson	<i>The Grizzly</i>	*	Although Mark's parents are divorced, they both love him and want what is best for him. The problem is they want opposite things for him. A weekend fishing trip with Mark's father involves a confrontation with some old hidden fears, and a very real grizzly that injures the father.
Levin, Betty	<i>The Trouble with Gramary</i>	*	Merkka lives with her eccentric grandmother whose scrap metal welding upsets the 'important people' in their town. Gramary teaches Merkka about courage, sticking to one's principles, and about the love that keeps families together.
Lovejoy, Bahia and Barbara Cohen	<i>Seven Daughters and Seven Sons</i>	**	Based on an 11th century Iraqi tale about a middle daughter from a poor but good family of seven girls who disguises herself as a man so she can go out into the world to make her fortune and help her family.
Naidoo, Beverly	<i>The Other Side of Truth</i>	*	12-yr old Sade and her younger brother flee Nigeria after their mother's murder and then are abandoned in London by the woman who accompanied them. This book explores the issues of family, exile, and freedom.
Petersen, P.J.	<i>Liars</i>	**	Ninth grader Sam discovers that he can sense when someone is lying. He marvels at the little things people lie about, and he helps discover crooks. He also discovers fear as he senses that his father is lying to him and might be guilty of a crime. Excellent book for discussion of when and why it is sometimes good to lie (when protecting someone you are helping).
Ryan, Pam Munoz	<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	**	When her father is murdered, Esperanza goes from being a pampered rich girl on a Mexican estate to a poor immigrant farm worker in California. Esperanza's aristocrat mother is a wonderful role model who adapts herself to the new situation and shows appreciation for the help of her former servants who are now her family's benefactors. Good family and good community interactions.
Sebesstyen, Ouida	<i>Words By Heart</i>	**	Lena's family is new and the only black family in town. She struggles to make her father proud by winning a Bible quoting contest. But she learns by the end of the book that it is true Christian belief and action – helping and forgiving the one who shot her father – that makes him proud. A good book for Muslims to learn about Christianity and the values that we share.

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Tahan, Malba	<i>The Man Who Counted: a collection of mathematical adventures</i>	**	Beremiz Samir, the man who counted, summons his extraordinary mathematical powers to settle disputes, give wise advice, and overcome dangerous enemies on the way to Damascus in the 10th century. Unfortunately the only mathematicians who are praised are the Greeks.
Voigt, Cynthia	<i>The Vandemark Mummy</i>	*	The Hall family is split – Mother has chosen to take a high paying, time consuming job in one state while the 12-yr old and 15-yr old live with Father in another state. Well written mystery about a stolen mummy; it also raises the question of who goes where when both spouses are professionals, and how that affects the kids.
Yep, Laurence	<i>Dragonwings</i>	**	In this historical fiction, an 8-yr old boy goes to live with his father in San Francisco Chinatown in about 1900, when the Chinese were greatly discriminated against. An excellent book to use in the classroom for discussion about living under adverse conditions, the importance of family, and the importance of character.
<b>Grades 9 – 12</b>			
Aboulela, Leila	<i>Coloured Lights</i>	*	The author is a Sudanese Muslim who moved to the UK in her twenties. This is a collection of short stories: “Souvenirs” is about a Sudanese man who is married to a Scottish woman. One story is about a British Muslim convert who joins the university’s Young Muslim Association. Another story is about a Muslim girl whose non-Muslim friend has an abortion. Islam is a positive force in the lives of many of the Muslims in these stories.
Aboulela, Leila	<i>Minaret</i>	*	Najwa, a Sudanese girl born into a wealthy family, falls in love with a nonreligious political student who tries to relieve her of her faith through rational arguments. When Najwa’s father is executed on charges of bribery following a coup in Sudan, she and the rest of her family move to England. Najwa ends up being a poor maid, but she turns to her faith in Islam for support and guidance.
Aboulela, Leila	<i>The Translator</i>	*	For Muslim teens, this is the author's best book. Sammar, a Sudanese immigrant, works for and falls in love with a Scottish Islamic scholar who isn't Muslim. She struggles with her feelings for him, but depends on her strong faith to reach a properly Islamic solution. Her feelings and struggles are realistically portrayed. It has a happy ending when he accepts Islam honestly and fully.
Barakat, Ibtisam	<i>Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood</i>	**	This is the memoir of a Palestinian who recalls her terrifying and humiliating experiences as a child growing up in occupied Palestine, including having to leave her family home and visiting friends in a refugee camp. Her love of reading and writing give her hope and a future.

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Brown, Tom Jr.	<i>The Way of the Scout: A Native American Path to Finding Spiritual Meaning in a Physical World</i>	*	This true story is as exciting as anything in fiction. It tells of how the author, as a young boy, meets an old Apache man who teaches the author and his friend how to be Indian scouts. The boys master tracking and hunting, as well as the moral awareness of the interconnectedness of nature.
Cooney, Caroline B.	<i>Diamonds in the Shadow</i>	**	A white Christian family accepts to house a family of 4 refugees from Nigeria, not knowing that they are not the family whose identity they are using. Not only is this thought provoking story exciting (a fifth refugee from the same flight is looking to kill these four), but it also deals with the problems of helping people from such a different and difficult environment (civil war). This book is not for very sensitive youth as one of the refugee's stories is horrifying.
Dickinson, Peter	<i>Eva</i>	*	A science fiction novel about a girl whose mind/personality is transferred to a chimp's body because hers was severely damaged in a car accident. She has to learn to live as a chimp, interacting with other chimps. Gives the reader a lot to think about.
Fernea, Elizabeth Warnock	<i>Guests of the Sheik</i>	***	Engaging account of a non Muslim American woman's life for the two years she lived in a small rural village in southern Iraq. Excellent treatment of the positive and negative in two vastly different cultures. Written in 1965.
Gibb, Camilla	<i>Sweetness in the Belly</i>	*	A novel about an English girl who grows up under the care of a Sufi sheikh in Morocco, moves to Ethiopia when she is 16 to live the righteous life of a poor Sufi, and who ends up working in England. The girl has an admirable faith, which finally waivers as she succumbs to the love of a Muslim doctor who admires her faith but who is weaker himself, and encourages her to go against some of her beliefs.
Hale, Shannon	<i>The Goose Girl</i>	*	Ms. Hale takes fairy tales and makes novels from them that explain in a logical way, why the events happen. In this tale about a prince who ends up marrying the girl who was taking care of his geese, there is no magical curse. Instead, the princess is a shy, awkward first born who never meets her mother's expectations of what a future queen should be. So the mother sends her off to marry a prince in another land. On the way, her lady-in-waiting leads a mutiny that results in the maid claiming to be the princess. The king is a kind and wise ruler, and the princess ends up with some real friends, who happen to be other animal tenders.
Hentoff, Nat	<i>The Day They Came to Arrest the Book</i>	**	Although written at a middle school level, this book would be excellent for a class discussion about book censorship. All sides are presented well, but the author and, therefore, the central characters are in favor of unlimited free access to all books, no matter how racist or immoral.

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Hirt, Douglas	<i>The Ordeal of Andy Dean</i>	*	In this realistic western, a small girl, nicknamed Andy by the outlaws who have rescued her from her burnt out house, remains faithful to what her parents have taught her. She will not lie, even to save herself, and by the end of the book, she has reminded two of the outlaws of what goodness used to mean to them.	
Jacobs, Harriet	<i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>	**	This autobiography tells the story of Harriet, who is born as a slave in NC in 1813. Her grandmother's and her faith helps Harriet retain a dignified sense of self and enables her to eventually flee to the North where she discovers slavery is also present. Interesting, factual, written honestly and in an Islamically appropriate manner – for example, the obsessive lust her owner has for her is written about in a way suitable for all Muslims to read.	
Kadohata, Cynthia	<i>Kira-Kira</i>	*	Katie's older sister teaches her to enjoy her surroundings, thinking that everything is kira-kira ('glittering' in Japanese). They are very close until the older becomes a teen and starts to have other friends and interests. Then the older sister develops (and dies) from leukemia so in the end Katie is taking care of her. Good family relations.	
Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>	**	This is an autobiography of a teenage boy in Malawi who teaches himself about electricity and builds a windmill out of scraps that provides electricity for lights in his village home. It is an inspiring story of what someone can do even if he has little education and absolutely no money.	
Karr, Kathleen	<i>Born for Adventure</i>	*	This historical novel's hero is a youth who manages to go on the great explorer Henry Morton Stanley's relief of Emin Pash Expedition in 1887 from Zanzibar to the mouth of the Congo River and beyond. As the cover says, it is "a startling, scary and surprising" true story. The European's prejudice and disdain for all colored people is accurately portrayed while the youth sees Africans as people of equal value, and their cultures worthy of respect.	
Kerr, P.B.	<i>Children of the Lamp Series</i>	**	This is either an excellent series, or a series to be avoided depending on how you feel about altering Islamic truths. The author has used Islamic definitions of the jinn except they are in charge of all the luck in the world – good and bad. Twelve year old twins, born of a human father and jinn mother, are good jinn who help their jinn uncle fight the bad jinn. Book One has them in Egypt dealing with an ancient pharaoh. Book Two has them in a subterranean Babylon from long ago.	<b>M</b>
Mortenson, Greg and David Relin	<i>Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time</i>	**	The author is not a Muslim, but he respects Islam and acts accordingly. He has built more than 100 schools in rural areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.	

## Reading List

by Dr. Freda Shamma

Myers, Walter Dean	<i>Now Is Your Time!: The African-American Struggle for Freedom</i>	**	A non fiction account from Muslim empires in Africa to slavery in America up to the modern Civil Rights Movement, told through the biographies of real African Americans. The several references to Muslims and/or Islam are positive, and the first personal story is told of Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim, the Muslim prince who was a slave in Mississippi.	
Rinaldi, Ann	<i>Finishing Becca: A Story About Peggy Shippen and Benedict Arnold</i>	*	In this historical novel, a young girl named Becca is a servant of Peggy Shippen, a British sympathizer during the days of the American Revolution, who eventually marries Benedict Arnold and convinces him to go over to the British side.	
Robert, Na'ima	<i>From Somalia, With Love</i>	***	Somali Safia has spent enough time in America to feel at home although she struggles with remaining good (while her friend and brother seem to enjoy their religion-less freedom so much), and she worries how her father will deal with his Americanized children when he finally arrives from Somalia.	
Robinson, Barbara	<i>Trace Through the Forest</i>	*	A historical novel about a small group of white people, including the boy Jim, who blaze the Ohio trail (trace) from Wheeling through Ohio to the Ohio River. Sympathetic look at the Indian side of the whites' movement westward. Jim learns to be an excellent hunter and outdoorsman in the process, through the help of both white and Indian adult friends. He is with the group in order to find his father who had left a year earlier to find a better place for his family.	
Wilson, Eva	<i>Islamic Designs for Artists and Craftspeople</i>	*	This is both a book of Islamic designs identified by country of origin and century and a pattern book that illustrates the geometric shapes used in particular designs.	
Wulffson, Don	<i>The Golden Rat</i>	*	This is an exciting historical mystery taking place in ancient China. A young man is accused of killing his mother-in-law. He is tried, convicted, and sentenced to death by beheading. Throughout his trial, prison time, release, and re-arrest, the novel poses thought-provoking questions about how we are judged for our mistakes, both large and small.	
Zimmer, Tracie Vaughn	<i>Reaching for Sun</i>	*	Although it has a 'best friend is the opposite gender' slant, this is an excellent story of a girl born with cerebral palsy who accepts herself as she is and learns that she can do whatever she wants if she is patient and tries hard enough. The boy who moves in next door accepts her as she is and becomes friends because they are both capable thinkers.	<b>D</b>