

Picture Books Around the World - NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Egypt

[The day of Ahmed's secret](#)

by Heide, Florence Parry

JEASY

A young Egyptian boy describes the city of Cairo as he goes about his daily work and waits for the evening to share a special surprise with his family.

Iraq

[The girl who lost her smile](#)

by Alrawi, Karim

JEASY

A story, inspired by the writings of Jallal al-Din Rumi in a collection of Sufi poetry and short stories known as Mathnawi, about Jehan, a young girl living in Baghdad who unexpectedly finds reason to smile.

[The librarian of Basra : a true story from Iraq](#)

by Winter, Jeanette

J BIO BAKER

Alia is the librarian of Basra. With war coming, she fears the library will be destroyed. When she asks for help protecting the books, officials refuse, so she hides the books in her home and those of her neighbors.

Israel and Palestine

[The key to my heart](#)

by Har'el, Nirah

JEASY

Jonathan joins his dad in retracing his steps after his father misplaces his key chain which holds a very special picture of Jonathan.

Morocco

[Mirror](#)

by Baker, Jeannie

JEASY BAK

In Sydney, Australia, and in Morocco, two boys and their families have a day of shopping. Readers are invited to compare illustrations in two wordless stories that are intended to be read one from left to right and the other from right to left.

[My father's shop](#)

by Ichikawa, Satomi

JEASY

Come visit Mustafa in his favorite place in all of Morocco--his father's shop. Here amongst the beautiful rugs, is an entire world of colors, textiles, and languages.

Turkey

[Nabeel's new pants: an Eid tale](#)

by Gilani-Williams, Fawzia

JEASY GIL

While buying gifts for his family to wear to the mosque on Eid a shoemaker is persuaded to get new pants for himself, but the only pair available is too long and no one seems to have time to shorten them.

[The Red Apple](#)

by Oral, Feridun

JEASY ORA

On a cold winter's day, Rabbit leaves his burrow in search of food, but all he can find is a single red apple hanging far out of reach. Maybe his friend Mouse can help get it down for him. But Mouse can't climb that high. Nor can their friend Fox manage to reach it. It isn't until they accidentally wake Bear from her slumber that they all find a way to work together and fill their bellies.