

The Middle East:

A Booklist of Titles Available in the Norwell High School Library/Media Center*



Akbar, Said Hyder. ***Come Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager's Story*** - Presents the author's first-hand account and observations of living in Afghanistan when his father is appointed President Hamid Karzai's chief spokesman.

Amir & Khalil. ***Zahra's Paradise*** -In the aftermath of Iran's fraudulent elections of 2009, a young protester named Mehdi vanishes and his mother and brother search for him desperately. (graphic novel)

Ardalan, Davar. ***My Name is Iran*** - The author relates the stories of her American grandmother's love affair with an Iranian physician, her Iranian-American parents, and her own return to an Islamic Iran without the freedoms she experienced in the West.

Ben Jelloun, Tahar. ***A Palace in the Old Village*** - After forty years of building a life for himself in France, Mohammed decides to move back to Morocco and spends his life savings on a grand home he hopes will persuade his children and grandchildren to come and stay with him, but his plans do not work out as he hopes.

Budhos, Marina. ***Ask Me No Questions*** - Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

Dumas, Firoozeh. ***Funny in Farsi: a Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America*** - An autobiography of growing up as an Iranian-American describes the author's family's 1971 move from Iran to Southern California, the members of her diverse family, and their struggle with culture shock.

Gately, Roberta. ***Lipstick in Afghanistan*** - Her work as an ER nurse in South Boston doesn't prepare Elsa for the hardships she sees in the small medical clinic she runs in Afghanistan. This novel is based on true experiences of the author.

Hall, Shyima. ***Hidden Girl: The True Story of a Modern-Day Child Slave*** - An autobiography of Shyima Hall, who at the age of eight, was sold by her Egyptian parents into domestic slavery.

Hashimi, Nadia. ***The Pearl That Broke Its Shell*** - In Kabul, 2007, with a drug-addicted father and no brothers, Rahima and her sisters can only sporadically attend school and rarely leave the house. Their only hope lies in the ancient custom of bacha posh, which allows young Rahima to dress and be treated as a boy until she is of marriageable age.

Hosseini, Khaled. ***The Kite Runner*** - Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.

A Thousand Splendid Suns - Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in war torn Kabul, incurring losses over the course of thirty years that test the limits of their strength and courage.

Krakauer, Jon. ***Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman*** - Irrepressible individualist and iconoclast Pat Tillman walked away from his \$3.6 million NFL contract in May 2002 to enlist in the United States Army. Deeply troubled by 9/11, he felt a strong moral obligation to join the fight against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Two years later, he died on a desolate hillside in Afghanistan. Though obvious to most on the scene that a ranger in Tillman's own platoon had fired the fatal shots, the Army aggressively maneuvered to keep this information from Tillman's family and the American public for five weeks following his death, while President Bush repeatedly invoked Tillman's name to promote his administration's foreign policy.

Kyle, Chris. ***American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. History*** - Chris Kyle, a Navy SEAL, recounts his life and military experiences, discusses his record for the most career sniper kills in United States military history and the bounty placed on his head by Iraqi insurgents, provides an eye-witness account of war in Iraq, shares the strains of war on his marriage and family, and honors his fellow soldiers.

Luttrell, Marcus. ***Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of Seal Team 10*** - American Navy SEAL and team leader Marcus Luttrell tells his story of the loss of his teammates in July 2005 along the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border to al-Qaida insurgents.

McArdle, Patricia. ***Farishta: a Novel*** - Twenty-two years after her husband was killed and she was injured and lost her unborn baby in the 1983 Beirut embassy bombing, Angela Morgan sees her Foreign Service career at a dead end until she's sent to a remote British army outpost in northern Afghanistan.

McCormick, Patricia. ***Purple Heart*** - While recuperating in a Baghdad hospital from a traumatic brain injury sustained during the Iraq War, eighteen-year-old soldier Matt Duffy struggles to recall what happened to him and how it relates to his ten-year-old friend, Ali.

Sold - Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi leaves her poor mountain home in Nepal thinking that she is to work in the city as a maid only to find that she has been sold into the sex slave trade in India and that there is no hope of escape.

Mortenson, Greg. ***Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*** - Traces how the author, having been rescued and resuscitated by Himalayan villagers after a failed attempt to climb K2, worked to build schools that would benefit the young girls who were forbidden an education by Taliban restrictions.

Stones Into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan - A follow-up to "Three Cups of Tea" continues the story of humanitarian efforts to bring education into disadvantaged Middle East regions.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Sunrise Over Fallujah*** - Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

Nafisi, Azar. ***Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*** - "Every Thursday morning for two years in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a teacher named Azar Nafisi secretly gathered seven of her most committed female students to read forbidden Western classics." (from cover)

Nordberg, Jenny. ***The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan*** - Foreign correspondent, Jenny Nordberg, reveals the secret Afghan custom of disguising girls as boys to improve their prospects, discussing its political and social significance as well as the experiences of its practitioners.

Owen, Mark. ***No Easy Day: the Autobiography of a Navy SEAL: the Firsthand Account of the Mission that Killed Osama bin Laden*** - A memoir of a former member of Navy SEAL Team 6 about his career in the military, including his firsthand account of the successful mission to kill Osama bin Laden.

Qamar, Amjed. ***Beneath My Mother's Feet*** - When her father is injured, fourteen-year-old Nazia is pulled away from school, her friends, and her preparations for an arranged marriage, to help her mother clean houses in a wealthy part of Karachi, Pakistan, where she finally rebels against the destiny that is planned for her.

Sacco, Joe. ***Palestine*** - Explores the complex, real-life saga of Palestinians living in occupied areas and the hardships they must endure in graphic novel format. (graphic novel)

Satrap, Marjane. ***Persepolis*** - In graphic novel format, the author presents her youth during the Islamic Revolution in Iran. (graphic novel)

Schami, Rafik. ***The Calligrapher's Secret*** - Even as a young man, Hamid Farsi is acclaimed as a master of the art of calligraphy. But as time goes by, he sees that weaknesses in the Arabic language and its script limit its uses in the modern world. In a secret society, he works out schemes for radical reform, never guessing what risks he is running. His beautiful wife, Nura, is ignorant of her husband's ambitions, knowing only his cold, avaricious side. So it's no wonder she feels flattered by the attentions of his young apprentice. And so begins a passionate love story--the love of a Muslim woman and a Christian man.

Damascus Nights - A hairdresser, a teacher, and the wife of the locksmith trade stories about life and community in Damascus.

A Hand Full of Stars - A teenager who wants to be a journalist in a suppressed society describes to his diary his daily life in his hometown of Damascus, Syria.

Shadid, Anthony. ***House of Stone: a Memoir of Home, Family, and a Lost Middle East*** - a Lebanese American living in Oklahoma City and "New York Times" reporter who was kidnapped in Libya during its revolution, returns to Lebanon after his release and reflects on war, exile, rebirth, and home.

Stack, Megan K. ***Every Man in This Village is a Liar: An Education in War*** - American reporter Megan Stack presents a memoir of her experiences as a journalist in several war-torn areas of the Middle East following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. ***Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*** - When eleven-year old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, she must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes.

Under the Persimmon Tree - During the 2001 Afghan War, the lives of Najmah, a young refugee from Junduz, Afghanistan, and Nusrat, and American-Muslim teacher who is awaiting her husband's return from Mazar--Sharif, intersect at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Wilson, G. Willow. ***Alif the Unseen*** - In Middle Eastern security state, a young Arab-Indian hacker shields clients, dissidents, outlaws, Islamists, and other watched groups, from surveillance and tries to stay out of trouble but the aristocratic woman Alif loves has jilted him for a prince chosen by her parents, and his computer has just been breached by the State's electronic security force, putting his clients and his own neck on the line.

Yousafzai, Malala. ***I am Malala*** - Malala Yousafzai's describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

**Summary descriptions taken from Norwell High School online catalog, unless noted otherwise.*

Updated by Mrs. Pratt, March 2016