



EBBY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 2 | September 2015

What is EBBY?

The Egyptian Board on Books for Young People (EBBY) aims to promote a culture of reading and writing for children in Egypt. Founded in 1987 as the Egyptian Section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), EBBY serves as a dynamic hub for children, parents, librarians, scholars, writers, illustrators, publishers, and others who are interested and invested in the field of children’s and young adult literature.

What is IBBY?

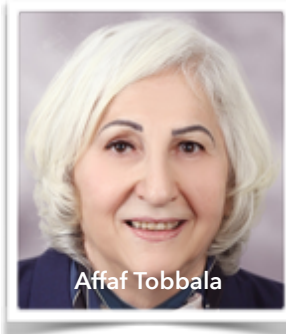
The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) was founded in Zurich 1953, as a network of people committed to bringing books and children together. IBBY is a non-profit NGO with an official status in UNESCO and UNICEF. It has a policy-making role as an advocate of children's books and has 72 National Sections all over the world.

Egypt Provides Nominee and Juror for the 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award

The Hans Christian Andersen Award is the highest international distinction given to authors and illustrators of children's books. Given every other year by IBBY, the Hans Christian Andersen Awards recognize lifelong achievement and are given to an author and an illustrator whose complete works have made an important, lasting contribution to children's literature.



EBBY's Yasmine Motawy has been selected by IBBY's Executive Committee to sit on the ten-person 2016 Jury. Motawy is a children's literature scholar and translator, and Senior Instructor at the American University in Cairo.



Affaf Tobbala

EBBY has also nominated Egyptian author Affaf Tobbala for the Hans Christian Andersen Award. Tobbala has worked in Egyptian Television as a director, screenplay writer and producer, and only started writing for children in 2005 at the age of 64. She earned a PhD in Mass Communication from Cairo University in 1996 and has been teaching Television and Documentary Production to undergraduates and professionals since 1987.

Book Review: Nour Tasaal Series: *Limaza Ana Hona?* by Lobna Shoukry (2014)



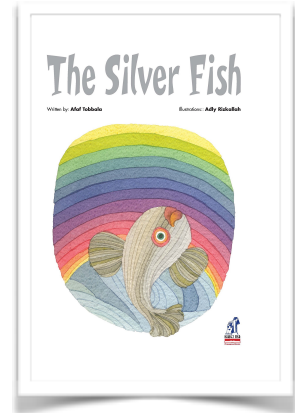
Why am I Here? An existential question which we sometime forget that children ask. The author, Lobna Shoukry, takes us through a journey to find the answer through Nour, a young girl who asks a lot of questions. Nour is fascinated with the world that she lives in and wonders how this universe works. Nour wakes up one day and goes to her mother, where she finds answers to all her questions.

Shoukry links the secret of life to love. We are all here because of love. God loves us so he created us and he created all the beautiful things to make us happy. Then she moves to loving and helping each other; "love is making each other happy." Nour's questions are continuous, realistic and smart. Even though her questions are diverse, her mother makes sure that all her answers are related to love.

An absolutely lovely book, with great characterization, ideas and illustrations. A worthy addition to the genre by any standards.

Reviewed by Nora Amer
amern@aucegypt.edu

In 2005 she collaborated with renowned painter, Adly Rezkallah, to produce her first book *The Silver Fish*, which was given an honorable mention in the New Horizon's category of the Ragazzi Award, and received the Egypt's Award for Children's Literature (then called the Suzanne Mubarak prize). Since then she has published over a dozen books for different age groups. A number of her books were selected for distribution to primary and middle school libraries on the national level and her first novel, *The House and the Palm Tree*, was included in the Arabic Language curriculum at a number of high schools.



For more information, visit the www.ibby.org website.

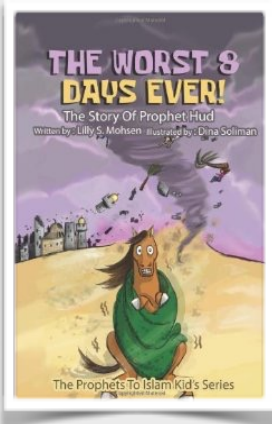
شكرا سمير



طلاب الجامعة الأمريكية مع الأطفال في مجلة سمير

أنشأ جورجى زيدان دار الهلال عام ١٨٩٢ وهي التي تعتبر أقدم مؤسسة صحفية في مصر والعالم العربي. حيث أنها أول دار صحفية تعنى بالإصدارات الصحفية للأطفال وكانت مجلة "سمير الصغير" الأسبوعية هي نواة هذه الإصدارات. أطلقت المجلة ما عرف "بسنين التميز" لمجلات الأطفال في مصر عام ١٨٩٣. تقوم مؤسسة النشر بورشات عمل إسبوعية للأطفال متفردة و متميزة، حيث تستقطب مشاركة جميع أفراد المجتمع في هذه النشاطات. قام مجموعة من طلاب الجامعة الأمريكية بزيارة مقر دار الهلال وبالأخص مجلة سمير في السيدة زينب لمشاركة الأطفال في نشاطاتهم.

Book Review: *The Worst 8 Days Ever!* by Lilly S. Mohsen (2013)



The entire Prophets To Islam Kid's Series is an effort to relay the stories of the prophets in a new unique way that will appeal to the youngest readers or work well as bedtime stories. It aims to use easier language and concepts in order to reach the target audience. I enjoyed the concept of these books much more than I enjoyed the content within it. The illustrations are wonderful, as is the step to create narrations of Prophetic stories in a new light. However, the language speaks down to children rather than speaking at their level. The storylines are also very predictable. I feel that more effort could have been exerted to truly bring out a new angle to these over-told stories. On the other hand, I liked the approach which the illustrator used, which was to bring the characters and events into a more modern setting and I feel that this approach should have been reflected in the narrative. Overall, this is one of the weaker books in the series as far as the writing but easily the strongest in regards to the beautiful artwork within. I commend the effort but believe that execution could have been much better.

Reviewed by Fatema El-Sayed
@FaseUnit



رسم كل من الطلاب ما سيتوقعونه في مخيلتهم من شكل المبنى إلى تنظيم المكان وأيضاً أعداد الأطفال، ولكن ما وجدوه فاجأهم. رغم قدم المبنى ولكن كان في غاية النظام، كل من الطوابق ينتمي إلى مجلة وقد كانت مجلة سمير في الطابق الثاني. تفاعل الطلاب مع الأطفال وفي ثواني كان الجميع في حالة إندهام.

من أراء إحدى الطلاب كانت تتمحور حول ضرورة هذه الرحلة ومدى فعاليتها لجميع الطلاب. حيث أن طلاب الجامعة في هذه الأيام محصورين في فقاعة، وهي فقاعة

تتكون من أفراد مجتمعهم الخاص والجامعي فقط. هذا النوع مع التفاعل مع الأطفال جداً مهم فيه منفعه للأطفال وهؤلاء الطلاب أيضاً. رؤية مواهب هؤلاء الأطفال ومدى فخر ودعم أهاليهم لهم كان شيئاً عظيماً.



تمنح مجلة سمير هؤلاء الأطفال فرصة ذهبية لتنمية قدراتهم وتشارك في نمو وتقديم مهارتهم العقلية. من المهم وجود ثقافات اجتماعية كهذه في زمننا الحاضر لأن الأطفال هم مستقبل مصر، وليست مصر فقط بل هم مستقبل العالم أجمعه. شكرا سمير.



Book Review: *Al khurug min al fuqa'a* by Ibrahim Shalaby (2015)

This brilliant book revolves around a 12-year-old leukemia patient, Samir. Samir takes us with him along his journey of being a young cancer patient. From the moment he discovers that he is ill till he recovers and becomes a cancer-free individual. Despite being a story about a cancer patient, it's an endlessly positive book—both on an emotional and intellectual level. Samir learns to be closer to God, to thank him continuously, to be grateful for everything he's been given, and to look at life from a different perspective; ultimately, with Samir, we learn to escape our usual bubble. Samir allows us to witness his chemotherapy, blood transfusions, and even the moment he falls in love for the first time within the walls of his hospital. As Samir learns various life changing lessons so does the reader. This is a marvelous book that isn't just suitable for children, but could also be a life-changing read for adults as well.

Reviewed by Sara Abdeldaiem
saelsayed@aucegypt.edu



Incubating Development: Interview with Shoura Foundation Chairperson, Dr. Olfat El Shiatty

In 2012, EBBY found a tremendously compatible patron to help revitalize and re-launch it: the Shoura Foundation for

Development. EBBY's Nevine Rateb sat down to talk to Shoura chairperson Dr. Olfat El Shiatty to discuss Shoura and the role that it plays in Egypt along with the kind of relationship she envisions will develop between Shoura and EBBY in the future.



Nevine Rateb: Why did the Shoura Foundation decide to support EBBY?

Dr. Olfat El Shiatty: We did not want Egypt to miss the role EBBY was playing until it was frozen in 2011. We want to sponsor and incubate EBBY until it can stand on its own, with or without our help. We are happy and honored to be able to support this important nurturer of Egyptian youth.

Rateb: Could you tell us in a nutshell what Shoura does?

El Shiatty: Shoura foundation helps in redirecting and correcting Egypt's education, which has been severely neglected in the past few years. If it were not for the social responsibility and human development foundations (of which Shoura is one) things could have been much worse.

Rateb: How did Shoura start and why?

El Shiatty: As a professor working at Cairo University I saw how graduates were lacking in substance that would give them potential, and skill to know that nurtured minds and developed characters were essential working skills.

Do you want to review books for EBBY?

The guidelines and [submission form](#) can be found on our website: www.ebby-egypt.com

EBBY Members in Action: Dina Elabd

In August, EBBY's Dina Elabd presented at the International Research Society for Children's Literature (IRSL) Conference at the University of Worcester in the UK. Her well-received paper discussed the presentation and influence of children on the Arabian Nights



Dina Elabd at IRCL with Oxford Fellow and children's author Clementine Beauvais

Follow EBBY on Facebook ([facebook.com/ebbyegypt](https://www.facebook.com/ebbyegypt)) or Twitter (@IBBY_EGYPT) and be sure to check out our website (www.ebby-egypt.com) for more book reviews and news!

Rateb: In what areas do you see the education system in Egypt lacking?

El Shiaty: Egyptian graduates lack analytical skills, research skills, language abilities and sources of reliable information.

Rateb: What is Shoura's role in developing the education system?

El Shiaty: Shoura does its best to help in developing the education system in whichever of its components by providing books, entrepreneurship programs, and internship programs.

Rateb: How has Shoura actually helped?

El Shiaty: We have a huge training centre in Tanta (mid-Delta) where we sponsor training programs set between 6 to 8 weeks and provide: business ethics, computer skills, language skills, microfinance, micro project management skills, and IPM (Integrated Pest Control Management).

Rateb: Where do you see the intersections between EBBY and Shoura?

El Shiaty: One of many ways is this: Shoura is involved with the Ministry of Education in developing the education curriculum. We see EBBY getting involved in developing and advising on books for this at different educational stages.

Another way Shoura could help EBBY is to connect them to the different centers in Upper Egypt where Shoura is already involved with internship programs. The possibilities are endless.

Rateb: What are Shoura's short term plans for EBBY in 2015?

El Shiaty: We plan to sponsor competitions and provide a space for them whenever required.

Interview by EBBY's Dr. Nevine Rateb