# The Hans Christian Andersen Award 2024 Author nomination - Lebanon

# Samar Mahfouz Barraj







# **Table of Contents**

Biography	3
Portrait Photograph	4
A statement on Samar's contribution	5
Articles and reviews	7
Interviews	20
Appreciation letter	21
List of awards and other distinctions	22
Complete bibliography	30
List of translated titles	37
List of titles translated by Samar	38
Five books submitted to jury	41
Ten important titles by Samar	50
Selected participations	61
Photo gallery	63

Samar Mahfouz Barraj is a Lebanese writer and translator for children's and young adults' books. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Public Administration and a Teaching Diploma from the American University of Beirut.

After working in two different jobs, she started her career as an Arabic teacher in a private school in 2002. Working with children has ignited her deep passion for writing. Aiming at making her students like and learn the Formal Arabic Language, she wrote short poems, rhymes, songs, plays and stories.

Her first book, "I didn't mean to-لم أكن أقصد was published by Asala in 2007.

She has worked with many publishers, and has 62 books, many of which have been honor listed, shortlisted and long listed for Awards. Five of her books won Awards: "When my friend got sick", "Grandma will always remember me" translated to Spanish- both with Yuki press, "Red line" translated to Turkish and Nepali, "My friend" and "A,B...Z" with Dar al Saqi.

Her book, "I love sleeping!" was included in the IBBY Honor List for best text in 2014. She also worked for educational publishers, (Pearson- Hachette Antoine- Dar Al Mufid),

Barraj has translated 106 children's books from French, English, and Italian to Arabic. The translated Arabic version of "*Bears don't read*" by Emma Chichester Clark, was included in the IBBY Honor List for best translation in 2018.

She conducts creative writing workshops, training workshops for Arabic teachers and librarians, and has participated in various activities to promote reading among children in and outside Lebanon.

Barraj is a strong defender of children's rights and is known for her simple language, smooth writing style, and humor in her stories. She tackled topics that, at the time, were considered taboos in Arabic literature such as children's cancer (When My friend Got Sick-2011), Alzheimer's (Grandma Will Always Remember Me-2012), sexual abuse (Red Line-2014), and accepting differences in culture and religion (The Purple Color-2018).

She also wrote stories about various other topics such as war, children's rights, bullying, smoking, gender differences, parental conflicts, special needs, accepting others, passion, jealousy, getting a pet, hobbies, relationship with siblings, friendship, waking up late for school and many others.



**Samar Mahfouz Barraj** is from Beirut- Lebanon. As many Lebanese, she witnessed the civil war and all the years of instability that Lebanon went through and still does. She loves stories and books.

She got a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from the American University of Beirut. She worked in a private company, then ran a family business before she decided to pursue her education and get a teaching diploma. She started teaching Arabic in a private school in 2002.

Teaching was a turning point in her life. Interacting with children made her discover a fascinating world. In her attempt to make kids like and enjoy learning the formal Arabic Language that differs from the spoken Arabic, and due to the lack of adequate resources and enjoyable books and stories, Barraj started to write short poems, songs, and plays. She tried to find nice and funny Arabic books to read in class. When she realized it wasn't easy to find many, Barraj started to write stories herself. Her first book "I Didn't Mean To" was published in 2007 By Asala publishing house.

She quit teaching in 2012 to invest more time in writing, attending conferences and book fairs, doing more readings in and outside Lebanon, and conducting workshops. She has conducted workshops in creative writing, how to teach Arabic through fun, and how to read stories and prepare related activities in order to promote reading, besides working with educational publishers (Pearson- Hachette Antoine- Dar Al Mufid).

Barraj worked with several publishers. She has sixty two books, many of which were short-listed and long-listed for awards. Five of her books won Awards, the latest was the Etisalat Award in 2021. Many other books have been selected on Honor lists, among which was the IBBY Honor list for best text in 2014. Some of her books were translated into other languages.

She has also translated 106 books from French, English, and Italian to Arabic. One of which was on the IBBY Honor list for best translation in 2018.

Barraj writes stories for different age groups. She has contributed in filling the gap in the Arabic children literature by enriching the Arabic library with books dealing with various topics, with creative plots, smooth writing style, humor and simple exquisite Arabic language that the child understands.

Since she got immersed in writing, Barraj has been engaged in promoting reading and encouraging children to read. She has seized every chance to meet with children in private and public schools, at public libraries, book fairs, refugee's camps, and at any other organization that cares about children. She enjoys meeting children as much as they enjoy listening to her stories.

Her entertaining books are appreciated by children and adults alike and are well known in schools and libraries. She collaborated with talented illustrators who brought life to her texts through their beautiful illustrations.

She dared new frontiers in the topics addressed to children in the Arab world and tackled issues that were perceived as taboos in the Arabic children literature like children's cancer, Alzheimer's, sexual abuse, cultural and religious differences ...

In her books, Barraj tries to send subliminal messages that break mainstream notions and stereotypes.

Besides writing about the child's daily issues, she wrote about serious topics like war, bullying, smoking, parental conflicts, disabilities, accepting others, immigration, etc.... Many of her stories are inspired from her childhood, her daughters' and her students'.

Barraj is a defender of children's rights which she tackles in her books and has been an active member of LBBY since 2007. She has contributed in spreading the love for reading among children through innovative techniques.

She is in a continuous search for a peculiar idea to write about that will make the children smile, imagine, and think.



Samar Barraj: The Storyteller Breaking Taboos 3/6/2015

0 Comments

by Rana Asfour



Last month, at one of the sessions at the <u>Abu Dhabi International Book Fair</u>, a female member of the audience commented that she felt the time was ripe for writers to overcome archaic 'taboo' issues where children's literature was concerned. The move, she stressed, was imperative if authors were ever going to grab the attention of the contemporary, globally aware, young, Middle Eastern reader.

What happens next is remarkable. As soon as this soft-spoken woman introduces herself and offers the name of her book as an example on overriding taboos, the female guest speaker, now recognising who the author is, gets up, hugs her, congratulates and thanks her for a 'magnificent piece of work'. The woman is children's author Samar Mahfouz Barraj and the book is 'Red Line', one of the author's 45 children's books to date.

Session over, I make my way to the petite, stylish, charismatic author and introduce myself. I am delighted when she agrees to meet with me the next day for a chat. And this is how it happened that I found myself engaged in a delightful conversation with this Lebanese author about her work, the huge responsibility that comes with writing for children and the reason why she thinks her books have garnered attention and amassed a following of young readers and their parents.

'Maybe it's because I like to write books that are both serious yet humorous', this mother of two grown up daughters tells me, 'I know that the subjects I write about can be considered delicate or sensitive by some readers, but they are subjects that must be talked about nonetheless. I believe that there is nothing that you cannot write about when it comes to children's books, but it depends on the format that these topics are presented. We should stop hiding belief taboor'.

One of Barraj's books, shortlisted for the 2011 Etisalat Award at Sharjah International Book Fair, is 'When My Friend Got Sick' which won the second prize for children's books at the 2011 Beirut International Book Fair and the Arab Thought Foundation's Kitabi award in 2013. The book introduces the subject of cancer to a very young audience. Understandably, she was a bit apprehensive on how it would be received by the public.

'I totally believed in my product yet I was so conscious of societal sensitivities that I refused to run it by any of my students or even young readers until after it went into print. Yet, when the book came out, the reaction of the public was very positive. Which goes to show that publishers who exaggerate their over-protective attitude to what children should/shouldn't read or are reluctant to rock the boat, can sometimes hinder the production of books that can be a valuable resource to children's education'.











# "شَربَر جائع" نتعلم حب القراءة مع سمر محفوظ برّاج: التلميذ الصغير يُترجم الحوادث ويفكر في يوميّاته!

23:27 | 28-07-2016

هنادي الديري

يُمكِن أن يَستَمتع إبن الـ 86 بنصّ كتاب "شربَر جائع..." البَسيط، لمؤلّفته سَمر محفوظ برّاج، تماماً كالولد إبن السادسة، وإن كان كلّ منهما سيستُخلِص عبراً مُختلفة من القصّة، إنطلاقاً من الظروف التي يعيشها!

تُعلّق الكاتبة بمَرح، " كل واحد منّا سيرى من خلال القصّة، شربَر الخاص به، وأعني بذلك أن شربَر يتجسّد بالمواقف التي نعيشها شخصياً أثناء القراءة". ومن هذا المُنظلَق فإن هذه الشخصيّة المُبهَمة في الكتاب يُمكن أن تعكس الطّمَع، الأنانيّة، الفّساد، السياسة، الأحزاب، إحدى الدول العُظمى، طبيعة الإنسان، والمُجتمع المادّي، كما تشرّح المؤلّفة.

ينطلق الكتاب مع الجُمل التالية، "شربر جائعٌ جداً – عصافير بطنه تُرْقزق وتُرْقزق – أكَّل شربر دجاجات الغمّة حياة ولم يَشبَع - أكّل شرَبر خروف باسم ولم يَشبع. أكّل شرَبر بَقَرة فَاسم ولم يَشبَع". وهكذا دواليك، تتطوّر حوادث القصّة بنصّها البَسيط والمُمتِع في آن، إلى أن يَتنبَه المُجتمع من كل جوانبه أن عليه أن يواجه هذا الجوع المُزمِن الذي له أكثر من تفسير. تُشرح المؤلَّفة فتقوِل، "إذا نظرنا من كِثب إلى النصّ وعَملنا عليه وعالجناه وحلّلناه مع الولد، يُمكن أن يُسلّط الضوء على أكثر من موضوع، أحدها التنمّر. وإذا ما أخذناه من هذه الزاوية يتعلّم الولد من خلال النصّ المطروح أمامه في القصّة أن عليه ألا يسكت إذا ما واجه في يوميّاته شخصيّة تُشبِه "شِرِبَر" وأعني بذلك أن بإستطاعتنا أن نوعّي الوّلد على مَفاهيم عدّة تُغيّر حياته اليوميّة نحو الأفضل. عندما أقرأ هذا الكتاب للأولاد أقول لهم في نهايته: ما هي غلطة المُحيطين بشربَر؟". تضيف قائلة، " وعندما تطرح الأسئلة على الوَلَّد إنَّما نحن نعوِّده على التَّفكير. نحن جميعاً في حياتنا اليوميّة وعلى أكثر من صَعيد، لو كُنّا نُحاسِب، لما وَصلنا في مُجتمعنا إلى بعض المواقف التي واجهناها. ومن هُنا ضرورة أن تضع الحدود لكل من يُحاول أن يستقوي علينا، ومن خلال هذا النَّصِّ يُمكن أن يَفهم الولد أن فكرة أن يَستقوي عليه أحد الزملاء في الصف ممنوعة. وأعني بذلك أن تُعلَّمه بألا يَسمَح

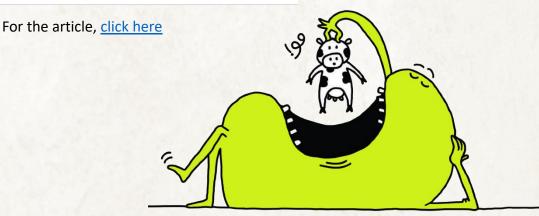
ولأن النَّصِّ موجِّه لكل الأعمار، في إستطاعتنا أن نُبدِّل حلقات النقاش بعد الإنتهاء من القراءة، إنطلاقاً من عمر الؤلد وقدرته على الإستيعاب. وقد استوحت الكاتبة هذا النصّ عندما كانت تُشارك أخيراً في ورشة عَمَلُ إِجَّدِمَعَ فيها عشرات الكُتَّابِ الرسَّامين مَع مُدربين قَدِموا من أُسوج لتعليم الحضور على أُصُولُ الكتابة للأولاد الذين يواجهون صعوبات في القراءة، تروي قائلة، "وفي أحد الأيام طَلبوا منّا أن نكتب نصاً بسيطاً موجّهاً للأعمار التي تراوح ما بين 6 و86 بشرط أن يكون بسيطاً. فإذا بي أُكتب هذا النصّ الذي تُفاعل معه الجميع. وعندما عرضته بعدها على دار نُشر "أكاديميا" كان التجاوب سريعاً".

ومنذ البداية لم تُحدّد محفوظ برّاج من هو شربَر، "كل واحد عم يقرأ بيشوف شربَر تبعو!". وكان الكتاب الأول لها عام 2007 بعنوان "لم أكن أقصد". وتَبَلورت فكرة هذا النصّ الأول عندما كانت الكاتبة تُعلّم الَّلغة العربيَّة لأولاد، "وكم كانت مُفاجأتي كبيرة عندما إكتشفت أن الولد لا يميل إلى هذه اللغة التي أعشقها. والأكثرية تميل إلى القصص المكتوبة بلغّات أجنبيّة. ولكي أجعلهم يتفاعلون مع العربيّة رحتُّ أكتب لهم النصوص لأسهّل لهم المواد المُعالجة أكاديميّاً. وكتابي الأول إنظلَق من نصّ تمهيدي كتبته للتلامذة الصغار وفرحتُ كثيراً لتجاوبهم معه".

تُعلّق قائلة، "كتاباتي تهدفُ إلَى نشر حبّ اللغة العربيّة بين الأولاد". وتُعالج الكاتبة في مؤلّفاتها التي يصل عددها إلى 49 في مُختلف المواضيع، منها التحرش الجنسي، وسرطان الأطفال، ومرض الألزهايمر، لتُنهي قائلة، "في الكتاب الكثير من الرمزيّة. تصوّري أن شَربَر تمكّن أيضاً من أن يأكل حلّم المُجتمعُ المُحيط به!".

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# THAQAFIAT

claudeabouchacra | 19 اکتوبر ,2014 No comments

# سمر براج: بات لزاماً علينا توعية الطفل على الخطوط الحمر " لحمايته

# كلود أبو شقرا

في عالم الإنترنت ووسائل التواصل الاجتماعي والهواتف الذكية وضخ المعلومات على مدى ساعات النهار

والمساء، بات من الضروري طرح علامة استفهام حول مفهوم الطفولة اليوم وهل سرقت التكنولوجيا الطفولة، وشوهت براءة الأطفال، ومحت الأحلام من عيونهم وجعلتهم يعيشون باكرأ الواقع بكل إشكالياته؟



سمر محفوظ براج، مؤلفة كتب أطفال منذ 2007، وعت كل ما يحيط عالم الطفل من إشكاليات وأخذت على عائقها توعية الطفل وحمايته وإعادة الألوان إلى عالمه، فضمنت كتبها أجواء جميلة تزخر بالطرافة بالألوان، وخاطبت الطفل بلغته

وبرسوم بسيطة وقريبة من الرسوم التي يرسمها. وقد بلغ رصيدها لغاية الأن 38 كتاباً أخرها "خط أحمر عن دار الساقي، و"البطاقة العجيبة" عن دار السلوى للدراسات والنشر.

حول تجربتها في أنب الطفل، وإشكالية العلاقة بين الطفل والكتاب في عصر الإنترنت، وبينه وبين الواقع المحيط به، كان الحوار التالي معها.

## كيف دخلت عالم أدب الأطفال؟

بعد تخرجي في الجامعة بشهادة إدارة عامة، عملت في مجال تخصصني واستلمت أعمال عائلتي، وعندما اضطرتنا الظروف إلى تصغية أعمالنا، عدت إلى الجامعة ونلت شهادة في التعليم، وانصرفت إلى تعليم اللغة

في إحدى المرات طلبت منا مديرة القسم مسرحية للحيد للأولاد، فخضت التجرية وإذ بي أكتشف في داخلي موهبة مخاطبة الأطفال بلختهم والكتابة لهم، وبعدما لاقت المسرحية صدى طبيباً لدى الأطفال والكبار على السواء، تحمست وكثبت في العام الثالي أغاني وأشعار ومسرحية ثانية. هكذا اقتحمت، صدفة، من دون تخطيط مسبق، هذا العالم الملون بألوان الحياة الجميلة.

# For the full article, click here



# خط أحمر ... أو كيف يحمى الأطفال أنفسهم من

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ضحايا التحرش الجنسي كاتر، والأطفال منهم. تكير أزماتهم معهم كلما تقدموا في العمر وتستقر مشاهد التحرش عميقاً في ذاكرتهم. "خط أحمر"، قصة قصيرة مرفقة برسوم موجهة للأطفال لتوعيتهم على كيفية



كن هم ضخابا الحريق، الجنسي، الأطفال ميهم، تكم أزماتهم معيمه كلما للموا في العمر وفي كثير من الأحيان لا يقصحون عما حصل معيم، فتستقر مشاهد التحريق، مبتقاً في تأكيرتهم لكنون في قد كافي المرافية و أصاب أو رجل أو جوز، لا يلطف أحيانا سب با يعتربه، من الطرفات المسيد التحريض به ضبطة لا يقتصر المحريق على أواعه على دولة عربية أو أحبية دون أخرى، ففي الدان، ووفق جمعية "كف"، فإن "" مداخة من الأطفال في الس يتطرفون سبوة التحريق الجمعية".

هذا الرقم قد لا يكون معتبراً إزاء أرقام أخرى لحالات التحرش الجنسي التي من للرجح أنها باتت تتخطى نسبة أعلى مما كانت عليه قبل سنوات، ومنها في مصر التي أثبت بحث للدكتورة فاتن عبد الرحمن الطنباري من "معهد الدراسات العليا للطفولة" بجامعة عين شمس. والذي يعود أل سنة 1995ء "أن الاعتداءات الجنسية على القاصرين تشكّل 88 بالثانة من حالات العنف التي يشهدونها".

وإذا كان التحرش يحمل آثاراً معنوية خطرة على للتحرش يهم، فإن الأطفال هم أشعف خلقات هذا التحرش، الذي يبدو أن أبطأته ليد للتحرشون قحسب، بل يقع جزء بسير منه على غباب التوعية التي يتحمل مسؤوليتها الأهل.

"خط أحمر" (إصدار دار الساقي - بيروت)، قصة قصيرة موجهة للأطفال خط أحمر هي التسمية التي أرادت للؤلفة أن تحت من خلالها الأطفال ليحمو أجسادهم خط أحمر تمبل على للنع- وأكثر، الاختماء بالوعي لتدارك التحرش. تحت النشة الأطفال من خلال نصها ورسومها إلى توعيتهم على كيفة حماية القسهم من التحرش، وتأخذ منه التوصة شكل حوار بسيط بين الأم وانها، حيث تبدأ الأم بالقول لطفلها إلى الوطن خط أحص التصل عبر سلسلة من الأسلة الوكد له أن "حسك أيضاً... خطّ أحمر"، وعندما تجد أن طفلها لم يستوعب مضمون رسائتها، تصارحه بالتالي " في جسنك أجزاء خاصة بك... لا يلمسها أحدا".

الشمة التي أخذت شكل حوار النسم بسلامة رسالها وسيهاة وصولها إلى علول الأطفال، وتقول مؤلفة الشمة سمر محفوظ دراج المهابهي تمان التناتج من الأقل والعلمين والعلمات لا يعرفون لهد يماني الحديث مع الأطفال، حوال سالها المرحض أنجسته ، والث لكان لمن الشمة فإضحاً حول ضرورة مصارمة الأطفال يكيفية الداخلة على إسلامهم، "حاضة ال التحرين يعتمد على عضرين هما حجل الطفارة يعدر مصارحة الأمل الطفائها أو التقانية وأنهم قد يتمرضون لتحري نحيد وأن بشيم حجلة السيمية، وكفيه يتطفون هذه العماية".

# For the full article, click here



# A REVUE DES LIVRES POUR ENFANTS — **INTERNATIONAL**

Livres d'images — Monde Arabe

# [Quand mon amie est tombée malade]

عندما مرضت صديقتي

03 juillet 2012 🔓 Imprimer



Une petite fille est atteinte d'une maladie grave. Ses cheveux tombent à cause des médicaments qu'elle prend, mais elle arrive à vaincre la maladie tout en restant toujours souriante. Ses amis assurent le soutien moral. Elle reprend bientôt l'école et ses cheveux repoussent, encore plus beaux qu'avant. Son histoire nous est racontée par son amie sous forme de phrases courtes et rimées, dans un album grand format, accompagnée des illustrations au trait noir aplats de couleurs de Sinan Hallak.

L'avant-propos de l'éditeur prévient le lecteur : il faut parler clairement aux enfants de leur maladie, sans détour. Mais dans le corps du récit, le mot « cancer » n'est jamais prononcé. On parle d'une maladie grave, de chute de cheveux, mais, bizarrement, le mot reste tabou. Cela étonne d'autant plus qu'à la fin de l'ouvrage une partie documentaire, sous forme de questions-réponses, donne les

chiffres du cancer au Liban, et notamment auprès des enfants. Cette partie, qui semble plus s'adresser aux adultes qu'aux enfants lecteurs, illustre le fait que l'héroïne n'a pas n'importe quelle maladie, mais bien un cancer. Alors, pourquoi ne pas le dire ? La démarche courageuse et militante des créateurs de cet album aurait gagné à lever le tabou de la désignation de la maladie par son nom.

Il est, certes, établi que garder le moral aide à lutter contre les maladies, mais le choix de présenter le vécu de l'amie malade uniquement sous un jour positif peut donner l'impression qu'on peut toujours guérir du cancer en prenant les médicam sourire. Ce n'est malheureusement pas le cas...

# «عندما مرضت صديقتي»: سرطان الأطفال في قصة



مادونا سمعان

For the article, click here

Vient de paraître

# Une petite héroïne au pays du cancer

C'est avec des mots simples, justes, roochains melles, justes, roochains melles et auch et auc



teur d'espoir. À l'occasion du Salon international du livre arabe, au BIEL, l'auteur signera l'ouvrage le samedi 10 décembre entre 17h et 19h au stand Yuki Press.

A signaler également que des activités autour du livre seront organisées les 12, 13, dans la salle des conférences te 14 décembre de 10h à 12h, dans la salle des conférences du BIEL, en collaboration avec l'association Iqra' pour la promotion de la lecture chez les jeunes au Liban.
Yuki Press animera également des ateliers de pédagogie interactive pour les élèves d'écoles élémentaires. Se ré-

ferant à des situations particulières évoquées dans l'ouvrage, ces activités auront pour but d'encourager l'enfant à exprimer ses émotions à travers l'expression artistique et théâtrale (avec jeux de rôle) ainsi que par le biais de l'ecriture. Cette maison d'édition s'engage, depuis as fondation en 2004, à faciliter l'apprentissage de la langue arabe, en les amenant à « jouer avec sa grammaire complexe et son vocabulaire stirche». Ses publications illustrent cette optique. Elles se déclinent sous forme de produits ludiques et de jeux éducatifis en complement des livres : des flashor-cards, casse-tête et des albums à l'acses-ette et des albums à l

tirs en compiement des livres: des flash-cards, des casse-tête et des albums à des closter. Dans son catalogue également, une série de livres pour enfants ayant pour sujets Distoire et la culture anbes ainsi qu'une autre «Afaal la Afaal», concernant une nouvelle approche de l'éduction sociale et civique de l'enfant. Le présent ouvrage s'inscrii, lui, dans le cadre d'une série «médicale» qui explore de récents défis se présentant aux enfants comme la dyslevie, le TDAM (trouble du déficit e l'attention, hyperactivité). Belles initiatives...

CULTURE

# Une petite héroïne au pays du cancer

OLJ / 28 novembre 2011 à 00h05

C'est avec des mots simples, justes, touchants mais empreints d'entrain et d'espoir que Samar Mahfouz Barraj aborde un sujet pour le moins délicat: le cancer des enfants. Illustré par Sinan Hallak, l'ouvrage 3endama Maredat Sadikati (Lorsque mon amie est tombée malade), parle en effet de cette maladie qui reste taboue dans nos sociétés, d'autant plus lorsqu'elle touche nos chères petites têtes brunes. Que dire à un enfant qui souffre de cancer? Comment l'aider à surmonter la peur, la fatigue des traitements? Comment replever son moral? Comment expleuger la maladie à ses amis? À travers un texte sensible, des illustrations rassurantes et colorées, une petite fille raconte l'histoire de sa meilleure amie, atteinte d'un cancer. Dédié à «tout enfant qui combat la maladie avec courage, à tout enfant qui pense à demain avec le sourire», cet ouvrage suit la fille et décrit son courage et son optimisme, ce petit bout de chou qui porte un bandana multicolore pour couvrir sa tête dégarnie.

En relatant les différentes étapes de la maladie et de sa guérison, ce livre-album se présente comme un récit porteur d'espoir. À l'occasion du Salon international du livre arabe, au BIEL, l'auteur signera l'ouvrage le samedi 10 décembre entre 17h et 19h au stand Yuki Press.

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M.G.H.

For the article in L'orient le jour, click here







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TRAINING AND CONSULTING GET I

'What do say to a child suffering from cancer? How do you explain the illness to her friends? Where do you find the strength to tackle such a difficult subject?" are a few of the questions the newly released children's book by Yuki Press Publishers entitled "تتما موست مستبقي" (Translation: "When My Friend Got Sick") goes over. Sensitively-written in optimistic Arabic rhymes by children's book author Samar Mahfouz Barrai with dynamic illustrations by Sinan Hallak, this book defuses the fear of cancer in the eyes of its young reader and highlights the ways in which to deal with it.



Illustrator Sinan Hallak (left) with the author Samar Mahfouz Barraj (right) at yesterday's book signing

We had the chance to catch the book-signing of this interesting storybook at the Beirut Arab International Book Fair at Biel last night where both the author and illustrator were present, signing books left and right. Prior to last night, we'd only heard of one other Arabic children's book touching on this topic (click here to read about it) so it was nice to see others taking on the challenge of addressing these important issues in a child-friendly manner. As an added incentive to grab a copy of this book, percentage of all book sales will be donated to the Children's Cancer Center who's work in this field is invaluable

# For the full article, click here



Picture Books - Arab World

# [The Violet Color]

اللون البنفسجي

Heart stroke

March 20, 2019 👜 To print







Here is a story that deals with a hot topic. Nour and his family had to leave their country to flee the war. They settled in a foreign country. Nour quickly befriends Clara, a classmate. But when one day Clara meets Nour's mother, her behavior changes... Given the sensitivity of the subject, the story is very well written. With finesse and subtlety, Samar Mahfouz Barraj addresses the question of the difference in culture and religion. The illustrations accompany the text with simplicity, without "revealing" anything of the story. Nour's point of view and her perplexity in the face of her friend's many questions are perfectly rendered by the drawings, and we only guess at the end what may have surprised her friend in her mother's physical



ندما مرضت صدينتي :TAG

## "عندما مرضت صديقتي" INTERVIEW | AUTHOR OF



# For the article, click here

الجمعة , 27 يناير , 2023



🔏 النسخة المطبوعة سياسة صحافة مقالات تحقيقات ثقافة

سمر محفوظ برّاج: الكتابة للصغار شغف و«لم أكن أقصد» صدفة جميلة توالت بعدها الحكايات











زهرة مرعى

بيروت ـ «القدس العربي»: للحكاية سحرها، وللراوي أسلوبه في استدراج السامع إلى منطقة الترقّب لمعرفة الخاتمة. عالم الحكاية قديم في حياة البشر حيث لكل شعب حكاياته. في عالمنا المعاصر باتت لأدب الأطفال مساحته المميزة،

سمر محفوظ بزاج كاتبة لبنانية خطّت ما يقارب الـ60 عنواناً في أدب الأطفال، بعضها يحمل صفة الريادة. منها على سبيل المثال لا الحصر «خط أحمر» الذي سجّل طبعته الـ12. وصدرت بعض كتبها مترجمة إلى لغات أجنبية. الصدفة ساهمت بالخطوة الأولى التي أخذت بيد سمر محفوظ بزاج نحو شغفها بالكتابة للأطفال، ومن حينها وهي تواصل مشوارها بمسؤولية ومثابرة. فهي حريصة على الكتابة بحب عن موضوعات جديدة ومثيرة لاهتمام الأطفال. تبحث دائماً لتقديم الكتاب الجذاب مضموناً وشكلاً، والمساهمة تالياً في خلق جيل يحب القراءة، ولغته الأم. مع سمر محفوظ بزاج هذا الحوار:

□ مكانتك مميرة في عالم قصة الطفل، فكيف كانت البداية؟

■ أحببت القراءة والكتابة منذ الضغر. لكنّني لم أفكّر أبدأ أننّي سأصبح يوماً كاتبة. دخلت الجامعة وحصلت على شهادة في الإدارة العامة. بعد التخرّج، تعيّنت في وظيفة (داريّة في شركة ومن ثمّ تسلّمت عملًا خاصاً بالعائلة قبل أن أقرّر التوجّه إلى مهنة تعليم اللّغة العربيّة التي لطالما أحببتها.

دخلت مجدَّداً إلى الجامعة حيث نلت شهادة تعليمية. بدأت التعليم في قسم الروضات في مدرسة خاصة. مرّة، طُلب من المعلمات كتابة نص للأطفال لإحدى المناسبات. كتبتُ مسرحية لفتت رئيسة القسم ووجدتُ التشجيع منها

For the full article, click here



# Interview: Samar Mahfouz Barraj Talks Children, Languages, And Literature

This Lebanese children's author explains how literature is important...

Posted on 20 February 2018

Posted by Edito

The Emirates Airline Festival of Literature is back again in Dubai this year in its 10th anniversary. And parents and kids are more involved than ever

The literature event will take place from 1-10th March, 2018. And we've got a list of 3 children's authors to look for this

We also got the chance to interview one of the children's authors, Samar Mahfouz Barraj, a Lebanese writer and translator who is interested in creative writing, translating, teaching, training, and promoting reading in Arabic.

# 1. What got you into children literature?

I always loved reading and writing, but never thought I would become an author. I began writing for children in Arabic after I started teaching. I wanted the children to like the Arabic session and I used to read stories for them, and especially stories related to the lesson I was teaching. They enjoyed that. One day I was looking for a book about professions and when I didn't find a suitable text, I wrote a story myself. The title was "م أكن أقصد". That was my first book, it was in 2007and this is how it started.

## 2. How important is children literature in the Middle East?

It is as important as in any other place. Children love stories. Stories are fun, they help in the development of language and critical thinking skills, it also stimulates their imagination.

## 3. What role do children's books play in the difficult times the region is facing?

It helps them acquire important ideas and values like tolerance, peace, accepting others. Children literature is widely used with children who have faced difficulties as a result of wars, losing relatives etc., it also helps entertaining them and giving them hope, making them feel happy and enjoy their childhood.

4. How important is learning foreign languages for the new Arab generation?

For the full article, click here



♥ [Ma grand-mère va toujours se souvenir de moi] جدتي ستتکورني دانما Samar Mahfouz Braj, ill. Maya Fidawi Beyrouth (Liban): Yuki Press, 2012 48 p.: ill. coul.; 26 x 19 cm ISBN 978-9953-478-17-3: 12 € À partir de 7 ans

Quand sa grand-mère commence à perdre ses affaires et à agir bizarrement, la petite fille pense au début qu'il s'agit d'une blague : sa grand-mère a toujours eu un sens de l'humour très développé. Mais la fillette doit se rendre à l'évidence : il y a quelque chose qui ne tourne pas rond... Questionnée, sa mère expliquera, avec quelques réticences, que la grand-mère est malade, qu'elle a la maladie d'Alzheimer, qu'elle oublie beaucoup de choses... Et cela risque de s'aggraver. La petite fille s'interroge : est-ce que sa grand-mère chérie risque d'oublier « sa petite princesse » comme elle l'appelle ? Elle décide d'être de plus en plus présente auprès de sa grand-mère ; elle cuisine avec celle, regarde des films à ses côtés, met des post-it sur les objets pour que sa grand-mère n'oublie pas leur nom, colle des photos pour qu'elle se souvienne des visages aimés, bref mobilise tout son amour pour entretenir la mémoire de sa grand-mère. Et elle a une certitude qui la porte : sa grand-

mère se souviendra toujours, en son for intérieur, de sa petite princesse.

Ce livre délicat, tout en nuances, aborde le thème de la maladie d'Alzheimer avec un ton juste, posé. Sans verser dans le pathos ou les effets faciles, il reste à hauteur d'enfant. C'est la petite fille qui raconte, et son regard reste résolument positif et optimiste. Sur la page de gauche, les personnages dessinés au trait noir se détachent sur des décors travaillés en couleurs. Sur la page de droite, le texte entièrement vocalisé est manuscrit, dans une écriture très lisible. Une belle réussite que cet ouvrage, qui a trouvé le bon angle pour aborder un thème encore tron souvent tabou. (HC) aborder un thème encore trop souvent tabou. (HC)

«خطّ أحمر» تحصد حائزة «كتابي 2015»

For the article, click here

# FISTA students tell the world 'we are heroes'

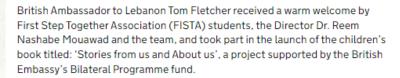
With words and pictures, students with learning difficulties tell the rest of the world 'we are heroes'

From: British Embassy Beirut

Published 3 July 2015



Ambassador Fletcher at Step Together Association



In their own words and drawings, 12 students with learning difficulties aged 12-14 years told their story expressing the difficulties they encounter in their social and academic lives and the friendships and dreams they have. He listened first-hand to the students' experiences and passion for this project, followed by a brief presentation on 'the making of' the book. The students then handed Ambassador Fletcher a signed copy of the book with all 12 signatures.

Ambassador Fletcher's quote featured in the book reads: 'This is a book about hope amid adversity. I'm sure it will bring inspiration to everyone who reads it. These are stories told not by victims, but by heroes'.

Ambassador Fletcher was introduced to the work of FISTA and toured the premises and classrooms to hear more about their work, ranging from educational to prevocational classes and meeting a number of students.

## Background

The book is the result of a 3-day artistic workshop planned and coordinated by special education consultant Nada Barakat Khawaja. It consists of 12 short stories, each expressed by a student and written by the well-known children's authors Fatima Sharafeddine and Samar Mahfouz Barraj who conducted the workshop. The illustrations were drawn/painted/created by the children themselves with guidance from artist and graphic designer Mona Yakzan.

The book's lay-out and text are presented in a way that is accessible to children with reading difficulties. It is now available at 'Step Together' Daichounieh and at their upcoming events. It will also be made available at major libraries throughout Lebanon. This project forms a part of the British Embassy's human rights engagement in Lebanon.



"Stories By Us & About Us" is the title of our precious book created by a team of special students at Step Together School. With a strong belief that the world goes round carrying every soul regardless of human race, religions, powers or disabilities, we have developed an artistic workshop

wherefrom we could express our message to all humanities. Our masterpiece creation was honorably launched under the sponsorship of the British Embassy in Beirut and was sourced throughout the artistic talents and the marvelous productive energy that reigned around. Communication skills covering a major part in our curriculum, is simplified under various activities. Therefore, we have drafted the stories and the feelings of our children during organized activities that favored their means of expressions, ranging from discussions to acting and playing. The outstanding authors Fatima Sharaffeddine and Samar Mahfouz Barraj gave us the privilege to listen to our students and to put into words their passion. The book is not alone inspiring and seducing, it is also cheerful and vivid with the kids' illustrations, nicely designed by Mona Yakzan, a refined graphic designer.

Our book is distinctive, friendly and touching as it embraces all sort of emotions, related to difficulties, social or familial situations. academic concerns and furthermore leisure and dreams. It exists in dual languages, the English and the Arabic version "قصص منّا وعنّا", both outlined particularly for "dyslexia" purposes, to facilitate the reading of all concerned.

Success was our great reward. Our students have left their mark with their signature during the Beirut Book Fair, held under the patronage

of the Minister of Culture, Mr. Raymond Areiji, also during the "National Day for Children with Learning Disabilities" in the presence of Mr. Elias Abou-Saab, the Minister of Education. The book is available for sales at Step Together School Riverside and in all bookstores of Maktabet Libnan.

Nada Barakat Khawaja

STORIES

BY US AND ABOUT US

# From step together booklet for Gala dinner 2016, click here





# **Books**

# Children's Novel Tells Real Truths About Divorce and the Loneliness of the Very Young

Ghady & Rawan
By Fatima Sharafeddine and Samar Mahfouz Barraj
University of Texas at Austin, 2019

## BY NAOMI PHAM

One boy longs for fun summer days in Beirut while a girl wishes she could live another life in Brussels. Fatima Sharafeddine and Samar Mahfouz Barraj's young adult novel, "Ghady & Rawan," follows the tender, youthful friendship of the titular characters, friends connected by Ghady's yearly summer visits to Lebanon. But the end of summer vacation signals the end of comfort and fun as Ghady must return to Belgium and Rawan must fall back into the motions of school. The novel combines a sweet story about friendship and family with a bracing look at the scarier parts of growing up.

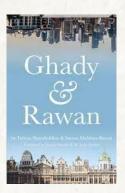
Summer, 2008. As 12-year-old Ghady looks out the window of his plane, he can barely hold back tears. More than anything, he wants to remain in Beirut with his friend Rawan, eating ice cream and exploring. This heartwarming story begins at the end of summer, when two close friends, seemingly worlds apart, dive back into the lives they are used to while wishing to inhabit the other's shoes. For Ghady, Beirut represents all that is pleasant and warm – there, the noisy streets replace the silence of Belgium. Rawan, who dreams of Brussels, thinks instead of the stable life she could have. They exchange their envies in daily emails, desperate to stay connected. "Isn't it enough that in Belgium you have safety and stability?" writes Rawan. "At least you've got electricity 24/7...Think about how, over here, we're at the mercy of random electricity blackouts and insane traffic. That's all on top of the daily back and forth between the politicians."

"Ghady & Rawan" explores the daily conflicts of adolescents in mature yet refreshing letters between the two characters. The perspective shifts every chapter, giving readers a very personal glimpse while showing just how different each character's experiences are. Through it all, Sharafeddine and Barraj do not depict life in one city as better than the other; rather, the novel focuses on human struggles that unite them both: fear, loss, and change.

Ironically, Brussels becomes far from safe for Ghady as he comes head-to-head with discrimination at his school. Michael, an upperclassman, constantly hurls racist comments at him. When Ghady misplaces his trust in the new student Thomas, who tries to pressure him into trying drugs together with Michael, he must find a way to avoid Michael and his group. Battling against bullying, peer pressure, and marijuana, he standstall and resilient, refusing to give in.

In Beirut, Rawan's warm outlook on life becomes cloudy and cold. She catches her parents arguing one night and fears a divorce may be imminent. She increasingly isolates herself from her friends and family, and her grades begin to slip as she descends into hopeless depression. But all is not as it seems, and Rawan learns that through friendship, even the toughest changes can be survived — and fortunately, the changes she had braced herself for turn out to be something else entirely, allowing her to keep her family together.

At the heart of "Ghady & Rawan" is the important message it sends to its youthful readers: problems shouldn't be faced alone. Despite the scary situations they encounter, neither Ghady nor Rawan tackle them on their own, relying on each other for support. Their friendship reveals something powerful that goes beyond two stories about growing up — how an idealistic view can temper the hardships of life. Even when confronted with pain and danger, Ghady and Rawan do not lose their hope for a better tomorrow. A.J



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KIRKUS PRIZE

# GHADY & RAWAN

BY FATIMA SHARAFEDDINE & SAMAR MAHFOUZ BARRAJ; TRANSLATED BY SAWAD HUSSAIN & M. LYNX QUALEY - RELEASE DATE: AUG. 1, 2019

A

fter a summer break spent in Beirut, Ghady, a Lebanese teenager, returns with his family to Brussels, Belgium, where they reside.

Left behind is Rawan, his female best friend, with whom he keeps in touch through email. Through their correspondence, readers find out about their dreams and ambitions but also, and most importantly, their teenage angst and worries: Rawan's increasingly uneasy relationship with her parents and Ghady's bouts with homesickness and racial stereotyping. Their stories—while told through the perspectives of two Lebanese characters—skillfully examine issues pertinent to adolescents everywhere: bullying, peer pressure, racial discrimination, conflicts with parents, substance abuse....The young peoples' narratives and communications uncover each of their perceptions of the other's world, with Rawan envious of the fast internet and 24/7 electricity Ghady enjoys in "well-organized" Brussels while Ghady longs for the extended family life of Lebanese culture and writes to Rawan that "the noise of the Beirut streets...is better than the silence here." Originally written in Arabic, the novel is masterfully penned by celebrated, award-winning authors Sharafeddine (The Amazing Discoveries of Ibn Sina, 2015, etc.) and Barraj (Red Line, 2019, etc.). The dual authorship results in a seamless text, and readers will travel smoothly between the novel's two loci, Beirut and Brussels.

A heartfelt and beautifully written page-turner. (Fiction. 12-14)

## By the Candle Lights

Hend Saeed The bridge\_literaryagency

By the Candle lights, is a story of lose, love, family, friendship and war. It is a heartrending story from the author memories during her growing up in time of the war. It is a story of finding the light in the darkness and finding and few laughs mid the night war symphony.

The story is told from a young girl point of view and captures a day in the life of her family during the war. The family spend their day carrying water from the ground floor to the second floor, waiting in long line to be able to buy bread and preparing candles or gas light if they managed to get gas for the night.

In those summer nights, they fight the mosquitos with applying cologne. Taking a shower is a prize for who carries most water that day and washing the face is allowed once a day. As dark descends, they lit the war candles or if, they are lucky, they have enough gas for the lights or cook some food.

The young girl and her neighbours' friends gather in the evening. While the symphony of bombing is heard outside, the children create games from the shadow of the candles on the wall featuring superman, batman and other personalities. Playing and laughing for a fewhours, forgetting the mosquitos' bites, the bad smell of the candle, and the outside symphony.-

The story captures the details, the emotions and the intensity of the events on young children, who had to grow quickly under these circumstances, but at the same time, find a way to catch their childhood despite the outside destruction.





For the article, click here



# My Grandma Will Always Remember Me -Samar Mahfouz Barraj

as published in 2012 by Yuki Press and is illustrated by Maya Fidawi. Farah Merhi attended to the book's typography and graphic design. My Grandma Will Always Remember Me is aimed at 9 to 12-year olds.

Samar, the little girl in the story, has always found excuses for the actions of her "cool" grandma. If she threw money in the trashcan, it was to prove that money was not important. If she kept biscuits under her pillow, it was to sneek some sweets in defiance of her doctor's recommendations. If she added pepper to her tea, it was definitely one of her new recipes. But why has grandmother forgotten the name of her favorite neighbor Nadia? Where did she hide her spectacles? Why did she ask the same question twice and tell the same story thrice?

Samar tries to understand why her grandmother has recently started to act strangely, until one day, she finds out that her grandmother has Alzheimer's, which is why she often forgets things.

Worried that, with time, her grandmother might forget her, Samar, sets out to help her remember the same way her grandmother used to help her learn

ألتي ... والترهين العبد العبد

Elisabeth Risberg review Translated to English

My mother and cigarettes\ Mom's Bad Habit

I have often referred to the picture book My Mother and the Cigarettes as an example of the wide variety of themes addressed in Arabic children's literature. I think this may be one of the few books, or perhaps the only book, that tells the story of a cigarette-smoking mother via illustration and content. But there's also her daughter, who has just learned to read and is spelling out what's on the cigarette packets. She wonders how her mother smoke cigarettes can even though it is so clearly stated on the package that it can make her sick. From now on, her big task will be to try to get her mother to quit smoking, something that turns out to be easier said than done.

I was so happy when I had learned to read and could see what was written on all the signs like that billboard... "Here you have the car of your dreams" or the sign outside the pet shop... "Zozo's Pet Shop". I could suddenly read everything!

But then I read what was written on my mother's cigarette packet, "Smoking can cause severe illness"... And I got worried. My mom smoked several cigarettes every day! I had always believed that cigarettes were like toys, but for adults because children were not allowed to play with fire. It was a game where the smoke could be blown out in various forms. I figured that as soon as I became an adult, I would also be able to play with cigarettes.

But after reading the text on the pack of cigarettes, I wondered how mom could smoke even though she knew it could make her sick. She as always said I could get sick if I ate too much candy or went out in the rain and got wet. I needed to come up with a plan to get mom quit smoking. I figured it was mainly a bad habit, like picking one's nose, throwing trash out of the car, or watching TV all day during the summer holidays. As of that moment, when mom lit a cigarette, I started putting my hand over my chest and coughing really bad. Because mom liked me so much, she wouldn't want me to get sick, and honestly, I didn't even like the smell of the cigarette smoke.

But mom didn't quit smoking. She just quit smoking in front of me. Instead, she went out on the terrace and stealthily smoked.

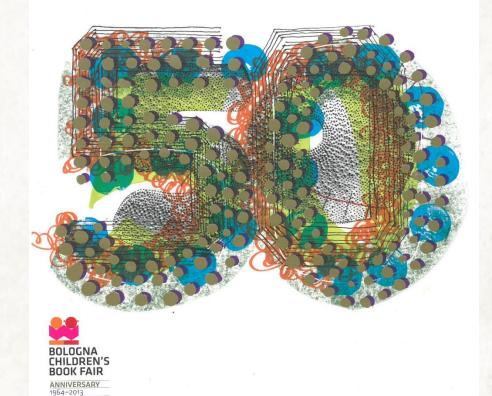
It's as if the mother in this story doesn't understand her own good and her daughter's need to come up with a better plan. What about Cinderella's and Snow White's mothers, or Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother, could it\_possible that the got sick because of smoking?\_But the mother had completely different ideas. Snow White's mother had surely reached too far out the window in the tower and fallen down, and Cinderella's mother was probably hit when she crossed the street without looking around. As for Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother... She had definitely gotten sick because of having too much sweets!

While the theme of this story is really serious, there's also such a nice humorous undertone. I have many times laughed out loud at the mother's explanations for what has happened to Cinderella's and Snow White's mothers and why Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother is sick... And the girl's sly facial expression as she hides away the cigarette packets! Storytelling encourages discussions, not only regarding smoking but also that children can take matters into their own hands to influence adults.

Author Samar Mahfouz Barraj (Lebanon) is a very prolific writer and a fantastically fine storyteller.

Her books are published by several different publishers around the Arab world. One of her most acclaimed books, also in collaboration with illustrator and artist Mira al-Mir (and Mona Yakzan) is the book Khatt ahmar (A Red Line) which addresses sexual harassment. It, too, is a unique story, and a very deliberate way of trying to bring up difficult things and break taboos. Read this nice interview with her where she, among other things, talks about that particular book. den här fina interviun med henne In addition to writing children's books (and translating), she actively participates in reading promotion work in various ways.

# Bologna - Fifty Years of Children's Books from Around the World



Hasmig Chahinian



5. S. Mahfouz Braj. عندما مرضت صديقتي (When My Friend Fell III), illustrations by S. Hallak, Yuki Press, Beirut, 2011.

ندما مرضت صديقتي (When My Friend Fell Ill) اعتدما story of a little girl whose friend falls ill with cancer (fig. 5). Even if the name of the disease is never explicitly mentioned in the story, at the end of the volume the reader finds explanations of the disease. Sickness is a theme dealt with in other books too like the novel by Taghreed Aaref al-Najjar, قبعة رغدة (Raghda's Hat)14 in which a little girl talks about her friend who wears a hat because she has lost her hair after cancer treatment. The two books both have happy endings; the tone is optimistic, and the illness always involves a secondary character, almost as if the reader had to be protected and placed at a certain distance from the sick person with whom he/she tends to identify. These books deserve praise, however, for dealing with the subject of a sick child and bringing the topic out into the open.

The handicapped child is an increasingly frequent feature of children's books. هي هما هن (She, They, All of Them) المنافئة (She, They, All of Them) و (she example, deals with the friendship between two little girls, one of whom has a motor impairment and finds it difficult to keep up with her classmates. Other books have made a particular handicap the central issue of the story. لون البحر؟ Another interesting approach has been taken by (What's the Colour of the Sea?)16, in which the author, Nadine Touma, introduces a little girl in a wheelchair as one of the characters but does not make her handicap a key feature of the story. It puts forward the idea that people with handicaps are simply members of society.

Divorce has also made its appearance in books for children in the Arab world. عندي بيتان (I have Two Homes) او (fig. 6), deals with the wrench suffered by a child torn between two homes. Here too, the tone is positive and there is happy ending, as if the authors want to help the child get over the pain of the separation of his parents, with the promise that things will come out right and that he will end up being happy even if he has to live in two places. This same concern to de-dramatize a real-life experience that could be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> T. Aaref al-Najjar, غند (*Raghda's Hat*), illustrations by Zeynab Fidi, Dar al-Salwa, Amman, 2012.

N. Ghandour, هم الله (She, They, All of Them), illustrations by J. Traboulsi, Al-Khayyat al-saghir, Beirut, 2010.
 N. R.L. Touma, 'إلى البحر', What Colour is the Seat'), illustrations by M. Arij, Dar Onboz, Beirut, 2007.
 H. Al-Abbasi, پيتان, ييتان, H. Al-Abbasi, پيتان, Elizu Homes), illustrations by D. Zada, Dar al-Ilm Lilmalayin, Beirut, 2011.





عن الغبرة، وهو احترام خصوصيّة الأخر.

بماذا حلم أخي الصغير؟؟ لم أعرف! لن أعرف! لا أبيد أن أعرف فالحلم حلمة والباب يابه وأنا لا أريد أن أرعجه.

قصّرت في أحترام صديقتها نورا والانتباه إليها، مع أنَّها صديقتها للفضلة ، وذلك لاستعجالها في الثكلِّم والتكلِّم والتكلِّم... ولكن - تبدو لنا حماقات ريما ، من ناحية أخرى ، مليئة بالطرافة ويلا . العطلة وإلى الأسباب في استياثها. مرة جديدة، تُمجَّد فضائل الكلام، من غير أن يدين الكتابُ بتاتًا سوء نيَّة الأطفال.

- الم الكورية - ومن المراكب الكثير عن العالم المناطقة المناطقة المناطقة المناطقة المناطقة المناطقة الذي اضطر إلى قض الحماقات، بلا إدراك منها أو بلا قَصد. يحضَّر عمَّالُ كار لإصلاح ﴿ خَصَلَ شعر[ها] الجُميلَ». تُذكِّر هذه "الخصل الجميلة" بطريقة

فإذا بالصبي يمدّ حبلًا من عينيه إلى عينَي أخيه الصغير، ويغوص - عواقب أعمالها التخريبية: سمكري ونجّار ودهّان. وفي كلّ فص وإذا بالضبي يمد حبد من عبيبه إلى طبي احبه المصور، ويحوض ف رأسه حيث يكتشف بإنّا فيقرعه، غير أنّ الأخ الصغير لا يجيب؛ من فصول الكتاب، تشرح الأم السبب في استيانها من ريما ي. فيروح يقرع الباب محددًا وينتظر طويلًا. أخرًا يتناهى إلى مسمعه والسبب الذي ينبغي لأجله على الفتاة الصغيرة ألا تتصرّف كما فيروح بفرع الباب محددا ويسطر عويد احيرا بناضي بي سنست. صوتُ عصافير خلف الباب. ينتظر. ثُمُ بقول في نفسه إنّ أخاه ففعل. تدرك ربما الأمر وتعِدُ أمُها بألا تكرّر أفعالها تلك... إلى يبدو سعيدًا مع هاته العصافير التي تزقزق خلفُ الباب، ويعود أن يجلّ موعد للرة الثانية، فتعود إلى ما درجت عليه. الكتار أدراجه، تابعًا الحبل. يقترح الكتاب، في الخاتمة، خلًّا أو بدبلًا مجدَّد على أكثر من صعيد. فهو كبير الحجم مربّع الشكل (۳.×۳. سنتم)، زوّقت ريشة لينا مرهج صفحاته على شكل م مشهدیات سردیة مقسّمة إلی لوحات، بناءً علی مبدأ الشرائط للصورة. تبدو ريما، حتى عندما تدتر مؤامرة ما، فتاة مرة مغتبطة للحيًا لطيفة ، ترتدي فستانًا أصفر قصيرًا ، وتعلو رأسها ضفيرتان. ولقد أحاطت الرسامة بطلتها بمحيط مألوف، فيه هرّ يعيش مغامراتٍ رسمت أحداثَها بموازاة القصة الأساسية. <sub>من</sub> - النادر جدًّا أن يتمتع الرسم النّبياني باستقلالية من هذا النوع، وأن يساهم في العملية السردية ويغنيها بالعلومات، وهذا ... نُقَة مغامرة جديدة لفرحانة تكتشف فيها، على حسابها، أنها ما يجعل التمفصل بين النصّ والصورة هنا فريدًا من نوعه.

إن كانت "فرحانة تتكلُّم وتتكلُّم"، فلأنَّ لها الكثير لترويه! فهي - تأثير خطير على مَن أو ما حولها. فهي تدخل في باب تلك التي . قد أمضت مؤخّرًا عظلةً رائعة على شاطئ البحر الأحمر، وإقبالها يرتكبها الصغار في حياتهم اليومية ؛ ولذا فإن القصة لا تدينها على سرد كلُّ ما عاشته خلالها يستثيرها، وكأنَّها تعيشه مرَّةً - بوصفها كارثيَّة. مما لا شك فيه أنَّ إدخال للعجون في للغسلة، تانية. لكنّ الأمر سيّان بالنسبة إلى نورا التي تشيح بوجهها عن أو العلكة في الشّعر، أو إضاعة مفتاح، أو الرسم على الجدران، فرحانة، ونُدبر مستاءةً، لاستحالة إكمال قصنها وجملها بما ﴿ أَوَ الإِكْنَارِ مِنْ أَكُلُ الْحَلُويِ، كلها حماقات، ولكنَّ صاحبة النصّ يتجاوز ضمير للتكلُّم. وبعد تساؤلاتٍ عدة للاستفهام عن السبب - تقدَّمها بوصفها تجارب طفوليَّة. وحده العبث بالغاز أمر خطير ق استياء صديقتها، أدركت فرحانةً أنَّ « عدم الإنصات للآخرين يوشك على التسبّب في إضرام النار في للنزل: أيعي الفتاة الصغيرة يون المنافقة من تاحيثها، تعدّد نورا، معترفة ألها فقرت هي هنا خطورة ما تعدل، شعافيت نصبيا بيسيسياه، تعدلة لله أيضًا في شرح الأسباب الكامنة وراء استيالها، وهنا تقوم فرحالة عرفتها، الطفل في "**لم أكن أقصد"** هو إذا شخص، برتكب

أخبرًا، يقارب الكتاب الوضوعة التمحورة حول علاقة الأم بابنتها بطريقةٍ مجدّدة. إذ تسوق ريما السردية بضمير للتكلم "أنا"؛ ولكنه يهيّاً لنا مع ذلك أن النصّ يُسمعنا، في بعض الأحيان، على نقيض "أفعل... لا أفعل"، ومع أنّه معاصر له، يروي كتاب كلمات أمها. فعندما تمضغ ريما العلكة قبيل خلودها إلى النود،

ال الله الله عن فناة صغيرة. يستحضر الكتاب بمهارة النشأة كذلك أن تمتلك حقيبة تحضّرها قبل النوم، أي أن واليدين للخطرة . عرفة الحج الأدومي، موجاً يقدرة هذه القناة على الوعي "صحح مرأية ومناهمة أخراج الإنافق التلاوء مع تعلم التطاقع يسيها من خلال النظرة التي ياقيها الراشد عليها، وعلى بناء كأن ترتدي الفتاة مريالتها، وأن يكون لها متديل خاص في ، ذلك

# ما أهمية القواعد الأخلاقية في النشأة السوية؟

ورن سابه من الطلق. ففي هذا الكتاب الذي يتابه من مخصه بين والذي لا تستطيع الاستفاء عنه، هو فيلة أمها في الصاحب إذي الطفل من سنّه الثالثة، ترتبط الشأة بقواعد سلوكية وبهذا تكون الأمّ هي الورد الوحيد للثبات والرّفّة في العالم تصطبع بالأخلافيات الصادرة، فالنشوء يعني ارتباد للدرسة الطفولي الثامق في تفرّد للتعلُّم والتغيِّر، والانتقال من الشعور بالعالم إلى إدراكه التسلّم التغيّر ، والانتقال من الشعور بالعالم إلى إدراكه عقديًّا، تقول الثقاة الصغيرة: « اليوم دمب تل المدّم. **الدُّم، عالمٌ حسّاس وباطني** عصدي أي كربت، وإن أشباء كمرة مستغيرة « فالشاة تعني تشكّل الأو أن الكتب المورة عاليًا فاتقاً بداته: عالم الحميمية أن تستيقط الثقاة بعشرتها عندما يرنّ اللبّه، أي أن تكون والإحساس للرهات والتعلّم برفق وهي تجتد عالم الطولية لتق مستقلة بنفسيا وفي الوقت عبنه أن تكون مقدامة. وتعني

جببها لا تتشاركه مع أحد. يُرتُقى بالنظافة الشخصية إذًا إلى النهج في احترام الذات والآخرين. في أعقاب يوم موقَّع بالقواعد الصارمة ، تتعلم الفتاة الصغيرة التي تكبر كيفية اغتسالها بنفسها، وهو ما يدعُّم موضوعة النظافة، وكذلك الاحتشام في "بقيء لا أستغني عنه" أيضًا، يجد القارئ بين سطور النصّ غير أنّ الشيء الوحيد الذي لا يتغيّر عندما تكبر الفتاة الصغيرة

من طينةِ ليّنة إلى كائنِ عاطفيَ

أربعون عامًا من الإبداع العربي في مصر وسوريا ولبنان





برنامج صباح الشارقة | الكاتبة سمر براج محفوظ

# For then interview, click here



For the reading, click here



Red Line) book) خط أحمر



# Appreciation letter

# Lubna Nuwayhid

Executive assistant at Yuki Press from 2006 till 2022

Creative, innovative, and imaginative, primary characteristics that captured my attention while reading some Arabic children's books for a new author in Lebanon. That was my first impression of Mrs. Samar Mahfouz Barraj's work many years ago.

Following that, and while working at Yuki Press Publishers as an executive assistant to the publisher from 2006 till 2022, I had the opportunity to get to know Samar well, not only as a well-known and gifted author that stimulates children's imagination while underpinning their education, but also as a genuine kind and friendly person with great ideas, potentials, and ambition to make a difference in children's lives and the world of Arabic Children's Literature.

As a publishing house, Yuki Press worked closely with Samar to develop and create unique children's books that tackle sensitive topics and explore some of the many challenges facing young children today. **Shadi's Foot**, **Ines's Mouth** and **Naji's Hand-2010 (3-6)**, a series of three stories that Samar wrote in a smart way to tackle the issue of bullying, thus, making a challenging twist to encourage their positive and effective uses. So, no wonder that **Shadi's Foot** story was among the longlist titles in Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature in 2011.

When choosing to publish books that promote gender awareness for children, Samar invested her long professional teaching experience and deep knowledge of children's various developmental stages and unique needs to write the series **Why she... why he? – 2011 (3-6)**, She wrote it with passion, using her sense of humour and wittiness to create curious characters that keep on asking curious questions about gender differences.

Writing books that help youngsters come to terms with illness is a big challenge in the Arab World. Samar's deep understanding of children, her empathy and eagerness to help them face some of the cultural taboos marked her authentic and distinctive style in When **My Friend Got sick-2011 (5-7)**, a story that won several National and International Awards and **Grandma will Always Remember Me.** This is a poignant story of a young girl coming to terms with her grandmother's Alzheimer's.

Written for 9-12 year old, **Grandma Will Always Remember Me** is designed to break the taboos associated with discussing this difficult medical condition facing many families today. In doing so, it simultaneously confronts the reality of Alzheimer's while reducing the fear factor associated with the disease.

The story was translated to Spanish "Abuela Siempre Me Recordara". It won best children's book award at Beirut International & Arab Book fair in 2012, was on the Honor List of "Kitabi" Arabic Children's book prize in 2013 and was shortlisted in 2012 for Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature.

# Awards winning, Honor listings short listed and long listed titles





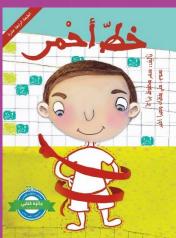














# Awards winning titles



# When my friend got sick Illustrated by Sinan Hallak Yuki Press | 2011

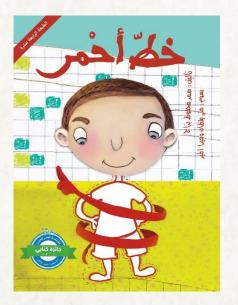
Kitabi Award for children literature Arab Thought Foundation | 2013

2<sup>nd</sup> prize, Beirut International Book Fair award Lebanon | 2011



# Grandma will always remember me Illustrated by Maya Fidawi Yuki Press | 2012

Best children book award, Beirut International Book Fair Lebanon | 2012

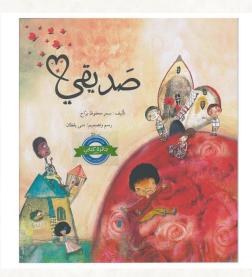


# **Red Line**

Illustrated by Mona Yakzan and Mira El Meer Dar Al Saqi | 2014

Kitabi Award for children literature Arab Thought Foundation | 2015

# Awards winning titles



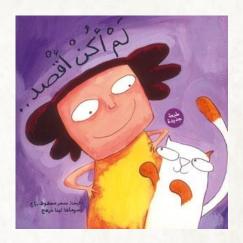
My Friend Illustrated by Mona Yakzan Dar Al Saqi | 2016

Kitabi Award for children literature Arab Thought Foundation | 2018



**A,B...Z** Illustrated by Sinan Hallak Dar Al Saqi | 2017

Etisalat Award for children literature UAE | 2021



# I didn't mean to Illustrated by Lena Merhej Asala Publishers | 2007

Selected among the best 101 books by Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation 2009

Selected as the librarians' favorite book in Lebanon "The World Through Picture Books" programme IFLA | 2012

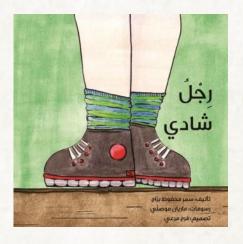


# I want a hobby

Illustrated by Lena Merhej Asala Publishers | 2009

Shortlisted for Etisalat Award for children literature | 2010

Selected among the best 101 books by Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation | 2010



# Shady's leg

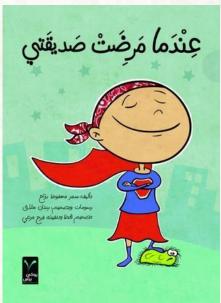
Illustrated by Lmarian Mousalli Yuki Press | 2010

Longlisted for Etisalat Award for children literature | 2011



# Mom's Bad Habit Illustrated by Mira El Meer Asala Publisher | 2011

Shortlisted for Etisalat Award for children literature | 2011



# When my friend got sick Illustrated by Sinan Hallak Yuki Press | 2011

Shortlisted for Etisalat Award for children literature | 2011



# My gradma will always remember me Illustrated by Maya Fidawi Yuki Press | 2012

Selected for the honor list of Kitabi Award by Arab Thought Foundation | 2013

Shortlisted for Etisalat Award for children literature | 2012



# By the candlelight Illustrated by Mira El Meer Asala Publishers | 2010

Selected for the honor list of Kitabi Award Arab Thought Foundation | 2012



# I Love Sleeping!

Illustrated by Zarifeh Haidar Asala Publishers | 2011

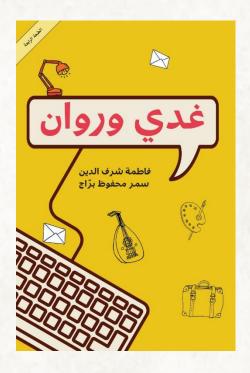
Selected for the IBBY honor list for best text | 2014

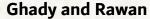


# Gooooal

Illustrated by Sinan Hallak Asala Publishers | 2013

Longlisted for Sheikh Zayed award for children books | 2014





Co-writer: Fatima Sharafeddine Illustrated by Sinan Hallak Dar Al Saqi | 2013

Shortlisted for Etisalat Award for children literature | 2013

Selected for the honor list of Kitabi Award by Arab Thought Foundation | 2015



# The amazing card

Illustrated by Mona Yakzan and Mira El Meer Dar El Salwa | 2014

Selected for the honor list of Kitabi Award by Arab Thought Foundation | 2015

Longlisted for Sheikh Zayed award for children books | 2016



# Stories by us and about us

Co-writer: Fatima Sharafeddine Art supervision: Mona Yakzan Step Together association (FISTA) | 2015

Selected for the IBBY honor list for best book for Young People with Disabilities | 2017



# Sharbar is Hungry Illustrated by Sinan Hallak Academia | 2016

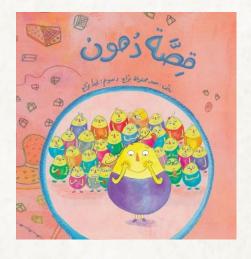
Shortlisted for Etisalat Award for children literature under 4 categories (best text, best illustrations, best production, best book | 2016



# Bears don't read - Translation

Original text written and illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark and published by Happer Collins Academia | 2016

Selected for the IBBY honor list for best translation | 2018



# The story of Douhoun

Illustrated by Ghida Barraj Academia | 2020

Shortlisted for the Arab Children's book publishers Forum Award | 2021



هذه ليست لُعبَة

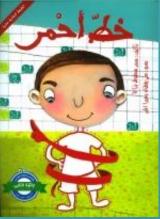


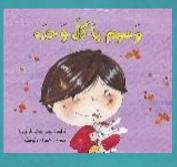




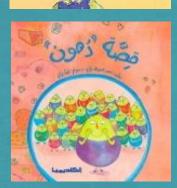














لم أكن أقصد I didn't Mean to Illustration: Lena Merhej Asala Publishers | 2007 Number of prints: 4



أنا أيضا أريد I Want Too Illustration: Lena Merhej Asala Publishers | 2007 Number of prints: 3



رحلة في منقاد كوكو A Trip in Coucou's Beak Illustration: Manal Haddadine Kalimat | 2008



أريد حيوانا أليفا I Want a Pet Illustration: Lena Merhej Asala Publishers | 2008 Number of prints: 2



أفتش عن هواية I want a Hobby Illustration: Lena Merhei Asala Publishers | 2009 Number of prints: 4



عند جدّي في الجبل At my Grandpa's House Illustration: Nivine Abou Salim Asala Publishers | 2009



على الشاطئ On the Beach Illustration: Nadine Sidani Asala Publishers | 2009



أوامر ....أوامر Do This, Do That! Illustration: Fadi Salameh Asala Publishers | 2009



ماذا أرتدى؟ What Should I Wear? Illustration: Radwa Askar Asala Publishers | 2009



الدّيك دجاجة...والخروف نعجة Cock, Hen... Illustration: Bayan Hummus Asala Publishers | 2009



كم هذه الغرفة مرتبة! What a Tidy Room! Illustration: Sondos Chaibi Asala Publishers | 2009



وداعا يا بيتنا I Will Miss our House Illustration: Dima Abou El Hajj Asala Publishers | 2009



الأرنب وملك الفيلة The Rabbit and the King of the Elephants Illustration: Manal Haddadine Kalimat | 2009



على مسرح المدرسة On the school's stage Illustration: Fadi Atweh Asala Publishers | 2010



واحد أم أثنان؟ One or two? Illustration: Soura Ghazwan Asala Publishers | 2010



نزهة عائلية Family outing Illustration: Lara Janoun Asala Publishers | 2010



العنكبوتة الصغيرة بوتة Bouta the little spider Illustration: Ghida Barraj Asala Publishers | 2010



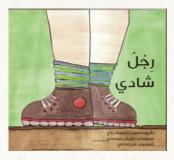
سائقون...سيّارات وزمامير... Drivers, cars and horns... Illustration: Fadi Salameh Asala Publishers | 2010



على ضؤ الشمعة **By the Candlelight** Illustration :Mira El Mir Asala Publishers | 2010 Number of prints: 2



سفّنا أحلى .... **My Lovely Classroom** Illustration: Sandra Ghosn Asala Publishers | 2010 Number of prints: 3



رجل شادي Shady's foot Illustration: Marian Mousalli Yuki Press | 2010



ید ناجی Naji's Hand Illustration: Marian Mousalli Yuki Press | 2010



فم ایناس Inas' Mouth Illustration: Marian Mousalli Yuki Press | 2010



الحيوانات، لماذا هي؟ لماذا Animals, Why He? Why She? Illustration: Bahij Jaroudi Yuki Press | 2011



ا أحلى النوم! **Love Sleeping!** Illustration: Zarifeh Haidar Asala Publishers | 2011 Number of prints: 2



لماذا هي؟ لماذا هو؟ Why He? Why She? Illustration: Bahij Jaroudi Yuki Press | 2011



أمّي و التدخين Mom's bad habit Illustration: Mira El Mir Asala Publishers | 2011



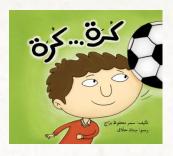
عندما مرضت صديقتي When my friend got sick Illustration: Sinan Hallak Yuki Press | 2011 Number of prints: 3



جدّتي ستتذكرني دائماً Grandma Will Always Remember Me Illustration: Maya Fidawi Yuki Press | 2012 Number of prints: 4



بيتنا أحلى .... **My lovely Home** Illustration: Mona Yakzan Asala Publishers | 2012 Number of prints: 2



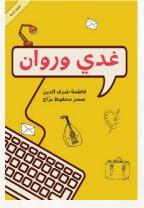
كرة....كرة Gooooal Illustration: Sinan Hallak Asala Publishers | 2013 Number of prints: 2



ماما نائمة **Mom is Sleeping** Illustration: Sahar Abdallah Asala Publishers | 2013



لعبة جديدة A New Game Illustration: Afraa Youssef Academia | 2014



غدي و روان **Ghady** and Rawan Co-writer: Fatima Sharafeddine Illustration: Sinan Hallak Dar Al Saqi | 2013 Number of prints: 4



خط أحمر **Red Line** Illustration: Mona Yakzan and Mira El Mir Dar Al Saqi | 2014 Number of prints: 14



الحوت توتى **Tutti the Whale** Illustration: Maya Fidawi Turning Point | 2014 Number of prints: 3



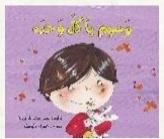
اليطاقة العجيبة The amazing Card Illustration: Mona Yakzan/Hiba Farran Dar El Salwa | 2014 Number of prints: 3



قطعة الحلوى الأخيرة The Last Piece of Cake Illustration: Afraa Youssef Academia | 2015



وسيم يستحم **Wassim Takes a Bath** Illustration: Afraa Youssef Dar Al Saqi | 2015 Number of prints: 3



وسيم يأكل وحده Wassim Eats by himself Illustration: Afraa Youssef Dar Al Saqi | 2015



وسیم ینام وحده **Wassim Sleeps in His Room** Illustration: Afraa Youssef Dar Al Saqi | 2015 Number of prints: 4



أنا و الصابونة **My Friend the Soap** Illustration: Mona Yakzan Dar Al Banan | 2015 Number of prints: 3



وسيم يمشي وحده **Wassim Walks by himself** Illustration: Afraa Youssef Dar Al Saqi | 2015



شربر جائع **The Hungry Sharbar** Illustration: Sinan Hallak Academia | 2016 Number of prints: 2



قصص منّا وعنا Stories by us and about us Co-writer: Fatima Sharafeddine Art supervision: Mona Yakzan Step Together association (FISTA) | 2015



أرجوحتي **My Swing** Illustration: Yara Bamieh Dar Al Aswar | 2016



الغيمة الصغيرة The Little Cloud Illustration: Afraa Youssef Dar Al Banan | 2016 Number of prints: 3



صديقي **My friend** Illustration: Mona Yakzan Dar Al Saqi | 2016



في السلّة يا وسيم In the bin, Wassim Illustration: Afraa Youssef Dar Al Saqi | 2017



هذه ليست لعبة يا وسيم This is Not A Toy, Wassim Illustration: Afraa Youssef Dar Al Saqi | 2017



الزائر اللطيف **The Sweet Visitor** Illustration: Yara Bamieh Dar Al Saqi | 2017



أين أجدك؟ **Where are You?** Illustration: Rasil Ishaq Dar Al Saqi | 2017



مشهور بالصدفة Famous by Chance Illustration: Nrina Kanzi Dar Kalimat | 2017



A,B.....Z Illustration: Sinan Hallak Dar Al Saqi | 2017 Number of prints: 2

ألف، باء .....ياء



"ليلة غريبة جدا A Very Strange Night Illustration: Rasil Ishaq Dar Al Saqi | 2018 Number of prints: 2



اللون البنفسجي The Purple Color Illustration: Dima Abu Al Hajj Academia | 2018



برقوق **Barkouk** Illustration: Zainab Faidi Turning Point | 2018



قصص ملوّنة\_ أحلام لبنى Colorful stories- Loubna's dreams Illustration: Mona Yakzan Dar El Moualeh | 2018



وسيم ينظف أسنانه Wassim Brushes His Teeth Illustration: Afraa Youssef Dar Al Saqi | 2020



قصّة دهون The story of Douhoun Illustration: Ghida Barraj Academia | 2020

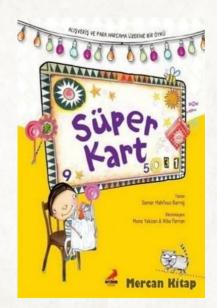


الطبّاخ الصغير The little chef Illustration: Nooshin Khaefi Ashkezari Dar Al Saqi | 2021

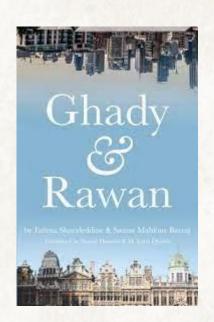


أصدقاء في الفضاء Friends in the Space Illustration: Ali Zeini Dar Al Saqi | 2021

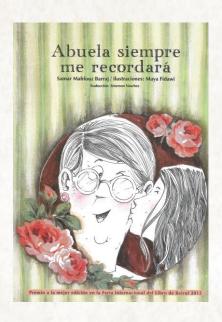
### **Translated Titles**



البطاقة العجيبة The Amazing Card Mercan Kitap | Turkey



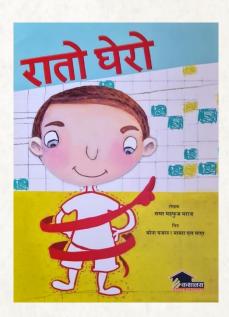
غدي و روان Ghady and Rawan University of Texas English



جدّتي ستتذكرني دائماً Grandma Will Always Remember Me Editorial Amanuense Spain



خط أحمر Red Line Erdem | Turkey



خط أحمر Red Line House of stories | Nepal

# Titles translated by Samar







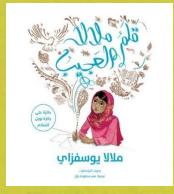


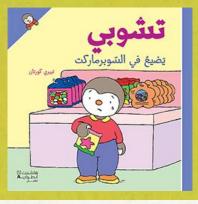












# Translated by Samar

Original Title	Author	Original Publisher	Arab publisher	
Cenderella		Child's Play International Ltd.	Asala Publishers	
Little Red Riding Hood		Child's Play International Ltd.	Asala Publishers	
Snow White		Child's Play International Ltd.	Asala Publishers	
Goldilocks and the three bears		Child's Play International Ltd	Asala Publishers	
Ramadan Noon	Na'eema Roberts	Child's Play International Ltd. Frances Lincoln Ltd.	Asala Publishers	
T'Choupi est en colère	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
i Ciloupi est eli colere	Tilletry Courtill	Natilali	nachette Antonie	
T'Choupi est trop gourmand	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupine veut pas se coucher	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi est malade	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi fête son anniversaire	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi ne veut pas prêter	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi veut regarder la télé	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi va sur le pot	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
Dear Little Lamb	Krista Kempter	North-South Books	Asala Publishers	
Dear Little Lamb	Kilota Kelliptei	Troitin South Books	7 ISGIG 1 GENERAL	
T'Choupi se perd au supermarché	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi rentre à l'école	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi a perdu Doudou	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi a une petite sœur	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
Tom the scarecrow		HRE Edizioni	Academia International	
Romeo the happy duckling		HRE Edizioni	Academia International	
Willy the rabbit		HRE Edizioni	Academia International	
Oscar the little bear		HRE Edizioni	Academia International	
Cuentos Clásicos	Francesca Pinchera	De Agostini	Asala Publishers	
T'Choupi fait du vélo	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi se baigne	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi fait de bêtises	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
T'Choupi joue de la musique	Thierry Courtin	Nathan	Hachette Antoine	
Sitt Sobhiye and the quest for the				
white horse	Karim Dahdah		Turning Point	
The best present	Janet Bingham	Scholastic Ltd.	Academia International	
La leçon des Grenoulles	Yvelyn Richard		Yanbowalkitab	
Bébé Koala dit non!	Nadia Berkane	Hachette Livre	Academia International	
C'est à moi!	Nadia Berkane	Hachette Livre	Academia International	
Un nouveau vélo	Nadia Berkane	Hachette Livre	Academia International	
Chez Papi et Mamie	Nadia Berkane	Hachette Livre	Academia International	
À la piscine	Nadia Berkane	Hachette Livre	Academia International	
À l'hopital	Nadia Berkane	Hachette Livre	Academia International	
L'Anniversaire de Pénélope	Heyna Bé	Collection Farfelu	Samir Editeur	
Il Pleut	Karim Dahdah		Samir Editeur	
En Route	Karim Dahdah		Samir Editeur	
El Cel	Nuria Roca	Gemser Publications	Academia International	
La Luna	Nuria Roca	Gemser Publications	Academia International	
La Terra	Nuria Roca	Gemser Publications	Academia International	
El Sol	Nuria Roca	Gemser Publications	Academia International	
Atchoum	Lenia Major		Samir Editeur	

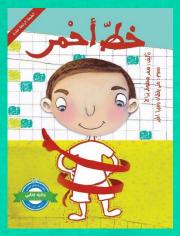
# Translated by Samar

Original Title	Author	Original Publisher	Arab publisher
Akim Springer	Claude K. Dubois		Epix Bokforlag AB
Goodnight sleepy babies	Janet Bingham	Scholastic Ltd.	Academia Internationa
Bears don't read	Emma Chicherster Clark	Happer Collins Publishers	Academia Internationa
Tout Neuf	Karim Dahdah		Samir Editeur
One Thousand and One			
Night (8 classical stories)			Academia Internation
Tales and Lessons (10			
classical stories)			Academia Internationa
My Big Busy Family	Cham Khan		Kalimat
'am going to eat this ant	Chris Naylor-Ballesteros	Bloomsbury Publications Plc	Kalimat
Chattaf Raffay	Dubai Abulhoul		Kalimat
Om Al Subyan	Dubai Abulhoul		Kalimat
Gom Al Dussais	Dubai Abulhoul		Kalimat
The Truth according to			
Arthur	Tim Hopgood	Bloomsbury Publications Plc	Kalimat
The big bad mood	Tom Jamieson	Bloomsbury Publications Plc	Kalimat
Chicken or Egg	Bersmislaw Westerovic		Kalimat
Nothing	Yasmeen Ismail	Bloomsbury Publications Plc	Kalimat
Jnder the blanket	Pailo Ferrara	,	Kalimat
Jp Up and Away	Tom McLaughlin		Kalimat
Hungry Roscoe	David J. Plant	Flying Eye Books	Samir Editeur
Quelle Histoire Nestor!	Heyna Bé	, , ,	Samir Editeur
En Route les Abeilles	Cee Cee Mia		Samir Editeur
En Route pour l'Ocean	Cee Cee Mia		Samir Editeur
n Route pour le Corp	Cee Cee Mia		Samir Editeur
En Route pour l'Espace	Cee Cee Mia		Samir Editeur
Bu Salasil	Dubai Abulhoul		Kalimat
Guide Du Mauvais Père - 1	Guy Delisle	Editions Delcourt	Kalimat
Jm Hailan	Dubai Abulhoul	20101010200010	Kalimat
Where Beauty Blossoms	Swaady Martin	Lovingkindness Boma	Kalimat
The Mango's Grace	Swaady Martin	Lovingkindness Boma	Kalimat
.a Casquette À Trous	Oulya Setti	201119.1111000 201110	Samir Editeur
Duel au Copacrabana	Jonathan Blezard		Samir Editeur
Guide Du Mauvais Père - 2	Guy Delisle	Editions Delcourt	Kalimat
e garçon qui parlait avec	day Bensie	Editions Beleaut	Kamilac
es mains	Sandrine Beau		Yanbowalkitab
Malala's Magic Pencil	Malala Yousafzai	Hachette Book Group	Kalimat
Waterlife Value 1	Rambharos Jha	Tara Books Ltd	Kalimat
Ariouli	Yveline Richard	74.4 200.0 200	Yanbowalkitab
Namnoum the anteater	Manica Musil		kalimat
The Lion Bora	Manica Musil		kalimat
No I don't want	Manica Musil		kalimat
Jm Kurbah Wa Lifa	Dubai Abulhoul		kalimat
Koronfola (Petunia)	Danielle Lopez Casenave		kalimat
The Elephant Loufi	Manica Musil		kalimat
Fridu, Friducha, Frida	A. Mercado/R. Sanchez-Riancho		kalimat
	•		
	Göktuğ Canbaba	Heenhelik Verrinlen	kalimat kalimat
The Skypainter	Tuha Kumac		
Moonlight Citrus the Smootie Sloth	Tuba Kumaş Ebtisam Al-Beiti	Uçanbalik Yayınlan	Elf Publishing

# **Five books** submitted to jury













By the Candlelight
Illustrated by Mira El Mir
Asala Publishers | 2010

The narrator, who is the girl in the story, describes an evening during the war. Her family who lives on the second floor of the building, used to gather with the fifth-floor neighbors in times of intense shelling.

Despite the heat, the lack of water, the power outage, the shelling and the candle wax smell, the children found themselves playing an entertaining game that made them enjoy their time and forget all what was happening outside, as if war became part of their daily routine. They escaped their morbid reality by using their imagination, proving that not even war can steal these fleeting moments of happiness and that childhood will always prevail.

The book addresses the topic of war to children in a relevant and a delicate way without diminishing its gravity by using a simple language and an enjoyable storyline.

The white and black illustrations reflect the candlelight and the darkness of war. This book creates a sense of empathy inside the reader and opens the door for a discussion with children about the bad consequences of war.

### The story behind the story: By the candle light

"By the Candlelight "is based on a true story of the author's own life, whose childhood and adolescence were disrupted by the civil war in Lebanon. The war lasted for 15 years, and after the fighting ended, it took time for the Lebanese and especially children to overcome the damage it caused them.

In 2007, due to a conflict, an armed fighting broke out for several days on Beirut streets. There was a real fear that things would get worse again. The author found herself living the same experience again, but this time, she was with her husband, trying to find a safe spot in their house and doing their best to protect and calm their two terrified daughters.

She recalled memories from her childhood during the war and wrote about things that happened one evening, when she was a child.

The book reflects the darkness of war; it is a tribute to peace and calls for children's rights to enjoy their childhood peacefully far from conflicts caused by adults. Readers who experienced conflicts and wars in their countries relate themselves to the events in this book, and all those who did not will sure realize how hard it is....... The book was used in workshops about human and children's rights.









Mom's Bad Habit Illustrated by Mira El Mir Asala Publisher | 2011

The little girl, who is the narrator in the story is very happy. She is now able to spell and read ads and signboards.

She discovers after reading what is written on a cigarettes' package that smoking is harmful. She gets worried about her mother who is a smoker.

### The girl is confused and wonders:

"How could mom smoke knowing that she might get sick, while she doesn't allow me to eat too much ice cream, saying that I might get sick?"

The girl decides to help her mother quit this 'bad habit'. She starts playing funny tricks on her to make her stop smoking, using sometimes the same strategies her mother uses with her. Unfortunately, things don't go as expected.

When the mother asks her daughter about the present she wishes to get on her birthday, she receives a letter from her:

"Dear mom,

I love you so much and I worry about you.

My first present is that you quit smoking..."

### Mom's Bad Habit

After reading the letter, the mother promises her daughter to try to make this wish come true; the girl is happy and offers to help,

"Who said that children can't help grownups?

At the end of the story, the girl finds herself thinking about a new mission:

"When I read in a magazine:

"... Smoking a hookah does more harm than smoking a cigarette. " I remembered that my grandmother, my uncle, and my cousin, all smoke hookahs!

The book opens the conversation about smoking and sheds light on how harmful it can be so children would avoid it when they grow up. It also shows that parents make mistakes, and children can help them too. The book\_conveys the message about the harmful effects of smoking in a funny text\_and simple language.

The book was published in 2011, where tackling the smoking issue about a female smoker was a ground breaking step especially in the Arab Children Literature where smoking for women was and still considered a cultural taboo within some societies. In the beginning of the book, we can find a heartfelt message to the author's daughters, Ghida and Ghia who did tricks to convince their father Hisham to quit smoking and succeeded. They were the inspiration behind writing this story, making it a point that children can help their parents too.







Grandma will always remember me Illustrated by Maya Fidawi Yuki Press | 2012

Grandma Will Always Remember Me, is the poignant story of a young girl coming to terms with her grandmother's illness, Alzheimer's.

Narrated in the first person with humor and sensitivity, the 12 years old girl relates how she initially thought her grandma was playing tricks when she put money in the garbage, hid the biscuit box under her pillow and put pepper instead of sugar in the tea. But as the eccentricities increase, so does the girl's awareness that there must be something wrong.

Learning that her grandma's forgetfulness was destined to get worse,

She asks herself: "Will grandma forget me?

Me? Her grandchild whom she took care of for a long time?"

The girl applies her own logic towards combating the effects of Alzheimer's. She speculates how science might help, and she excavates many of her own memories of quality time spent with her grandma over the years.

The girl's main concern was to make sure that her grandma remembers her and calls her as she always did: "My little princess."

She decides to visit her grandma daily and help her keep her memory active.

"I will help grandma remember...

As she used to help me remember letters, words, and numbers when I was little."

### Grandma will always remember me

She also wanted to continue the fun things that they loved doing together like making desserts, singing songs, and watching funny movies.

She and her grandma also start to do crosswords puzzle together, play word games, look at old family photos so that she does not forget who is who...

Clinging to the notion that when grandma does strange things, it is because she is only joking, the girl nonetheless prepares herself for the day when her grandma might even forget her granddaughter pet name. She comforts herself with the knowledge that "deep inside her she will still remember her Little Princess." Thus, the story ends on a note of hope and optimism.

The book aims to break the taboos associated with discussing this difficult medical condition facing many families. In doing so, it simultaneously confronts the reality of Alzheimer's while reducing the fear factor associated with the disease.

Besides the Alzheimer's issue that it tackles, this book also invites for a close relationship between grandchildren and their grandparents. The author had a close relationship with her grandma; she spent much time with her when she was a child, and together they used to do most of the things mentioned in the text.





### Submitted to jury



Red Line

Illustrated by Mona Yakzan and Mira El Mir Dar Al Sagi | 2014

Mazen rushes into the house. "Mama! Mama! Our neighbor, Mr Bassem, wants to paint his parking spot red! I heard him say "My parking space is a red line!"

Here starts a dialogue between the mother and Mazen about what is meant by "red line". Throughout the book the author tries to cover many topics that come under the umbrella of Redline notion like country, home, family, in order to build a momentum and reach the redline evolving around our body and how we should protect it and be aware if someone wants to come near of it.

The story addresses the topic of sexual abuse, which was considered a taboo, in a delicate, simple and real storyline while acknowledging its complexity. The book explains this serious issue to children in a simple and entertaining way.

It creates many opportunities to discuss body safety with the child empowering him and giving him the courage to face any unpleasant situation without showing him as a victim. It also highlights the necessity of speaking openly and more often to the child about this topic and emphasizes the importance of a good communication between the parents and the child as a way to protect him against sexual abuse.

It is a reference for parents, teachers etc..., who need help in finding the right approach to talk about sexual abuse with children without worrying that the child's ability to trust adults and show affection might be affected.

The illustrations and vivid colors used in this book comes in harmony with the approach used to discuss this delicate topic.

It is worth to mention that the book is now in its 14th edition in the original language and in its 11th edition in the Turkish version.



Sharbar is Hungry Illustrated by Sinan Hallak Academia | 2016

"Sharbar is very hungry. His tummy is rumbling. The tiny birds in his tummy are asking for food. Sharbar eats Aunt Hayat's chicken. He is still hungry. Sharbar eats Bassem's sheep. He is still hungry..."

The story develops exponentially, showing the extremely greedy, selfish Sharbar who never gets satisfied. Sharbar is always looking for more; he eats everything, "the fish in the sea, the mountain, the trees..." He becomes big and powerful to the extent that no one is able to deal with him anymore. Everyone realizes that they have to cooperate to confront his chronic hunger and comes up with a plan. But will it end there?

The book tackles some profound and intricate issues in a funny and fast paced storyline. As mentioned on the cover, the story can be read and enjoyed by children as well as by adults from 5 to 105, as there are so many layers and symbols that keep unfolding as the story develops, leaving the readers with so many questions on their mind. They can also enjoy the humorous and imaginary side of the story paired with minimalistic illustrations that are the reflection of the text's subtlety, and leave room for imagination and interpretation.

The text is simple yet deep at the same time, and it conveys a clear message to the reader to stop any unacceptable behavior from the beginning and learn from previous experiences. The text could be interpreted in so many ways. Each reader can reflect on the symbolism present throughout the story in the way he deems relevant to his own experience.

The book opens the door for discussion about who Sharbar might represent. Every reader can identify at least one Sharbar he knows or maybe one who is not so far way...

# Ten important titles by Samar









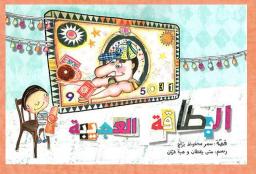












### 10 important titles

1





Illustrated by Lena Merhej Asala Publishers



I Want Too | 2007



I Want a Pet | 2008



I want a Hobby | 2009

"I Didn't Mean To" is the author's first published book in 2007. It is one of a series of four books that revolve around the daily adventures of the girl protagonist: (I Didn't Mean to, I want a Hobby, I Want a Pet, and I Want Too).

Throughout the book, we see her happy, ill, embarrassed, despondent, and gleefully intent on mischief. The plot of the story is episodic as the narrator recounts six occasions in which she had gotten into some sort of trouble even though she had not meant to.

All along the story, the girl engages in a series of acts that lead to some unfortunate results, after realizing how bad her acts are, she acknowledges her faults by saying "I didn't mean to". After each event, we see the mother's intervention to guide her daughter.

At the end of the story, the girl promises to think before committing new foolishness, but the look in her eyes, and the funny

illustrations suggest that the promise may be temporary.

The book is humorous, eventful, and entertaining.

The story shows us how children learn from their mistakes and highlights the importance of the parents' flexibility and tolerance towards their children, while providing protection and guidance through this journey of learning and experiments.



Naji's Hand | 2010 Illustrated by Marian Mousalli Yuki Press



Shady's foot | 2010



Inas' Mouth | 2010

In Naji's Hand, the right hand is the narrator. She explains how much fun it is to work with the left hand. She tells about the things they do together and how they cooperate in helping Naji do his everyday activities: they tie his shoelaces, unbutton his shirt, peel the banana, steer the red bike... The hand tells how Naji uses her to draw a line, a circle, and a flower, and to wave goodbye to his grandma...But sometimes Naji decides to use the hand to pull the cat's tail, to hit his friends or pull his sister Luna's hair. When his Mom asks him why he does that, Naji laughs and says that he is just playing. Naji's hand is sad, she does not like to hurt anyone. She says..."I can do nothing about it. Naji is the one who thinks and acts."

Naji's hand, is one of a series of three books. It tackles the topic of bullying. By exploring how different body parts- the foot, the hand, the mouth- work in relation to the child's social environment, the young reader quickly realizes the difference between good and bad physical responses.

The book is one of a series about body parts, (Naji's Hand, Inas' Mouth, Shadi's foot)

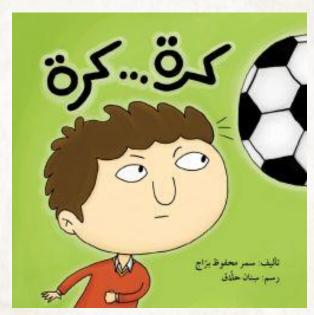


When my friend got sick Illustrated by Sinan Hallak Yuki Press | 2011

Narrated in the first person, the book tells the story of a girl whose friend at school gets sick with cancer. Through a sensitive, soft, and rhyming text and cheerful illustrations, different stages are explored such as how the child loses her lovely hair but wears a beautiful hat; and when she could not go to school, her classmates sent her cards to the hospital. The book conveys a message of hope.

When first published in the Arab World, the book was considered first of a kind by breaking taboos and addressing such a sensitive topic to children specifically from 5 to 7. The book is open, factual, and straightforward. It allows the children to get more familiar with the disease and open up the ability to have a good conversation with children about harsh topics.





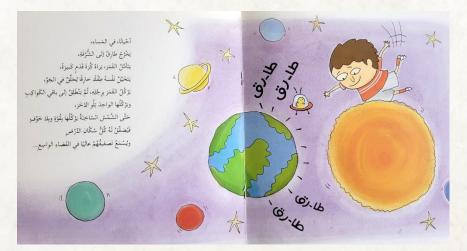
Goooal
Illustrated by Sinan Hallak
Asala Publishers | 2013

The book tells the story of Tarek, a boy whose first and only passion is football. Tarek's passion about football is fathomless. He perceives everything around ball-shaped and any situation in the class as a football game scene. Tarek's only concern was that his parents wouldn't approve of registering him in a football club, fearing that this might affect his studies. But his passion was not left unnoticed, as they finally agreed that Tarek join the football club.

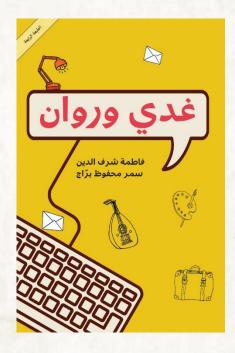
This made Tarek enjoy playing football and at the same time concentrate more on his schoolwork.

The story is fun, inspiring, and simply written.

The book highlights the importance of giving the children the chance to practice what they're passionate about and bring out their talents.







**Ghady and Rawan** Illustrated by Sinan Hallak Dar Al Saqi | 2013

The book tells about the friendship of two Lebanese teenagers, Ghady, who lives with his family in Belgium, and Rawan, who lives in Lebanon. Ghady's family travels every summer to Beirut, where Ghady gets to spend all his time with Rawan and their other friends, enjoying their freedom from school. During the rest of the year, Ghady and Rawan keep in touch by email. Through this correspondence, the reader learns about the daily ups and downs of their lives in Brussels and Beirut, including Ghady's homesickness and his struggles with racism at school, as well as Rawan's relationship with her family. The novel offers a glimpse into the lives of Lebanese adolescents while exploring a range of topics relevant to young people everywhere: bullying, parental conflicts, racism, belonging and identity, and peer pressure. Through the connection between the two main characters, the two authors show how the love and support of a good friend can help you through difficulties as well as sweeten life's triumphs and good times.

### The story behind the story: Ghady and Rawan

Ghady and Rawan was written by 2 authors, Samar Mahfouz Barraj and Fatima Sharafeddine.

It entails two- parallel stories: the story of Ghady, written by Fatima, and the story of Rawan by Samar. The two authors chose the characters to be two Lebanese friends, a boy living in Belgium and a girl living in Beirut. Both kids face problems, which they communicate about and try to help each other through e-mails. Each author picked the topics to be tackled in her character story.

Fatima wrote the first chapter of Ghady's part and emailed it to Samar.

Samar read it, then added the first chapter of Rawan's part and sent the text back to Fatima and so on. None of the two authors knew ahead of time the flow of events in the other's story. They were both eager to know what would happen next with the other character, and sometimes they get surprised. When both finished writing, they met and edited it together respecting one another's style. It was an interesting experience and the first of its kind in Arabic children literature, which makes this book special. In the English version, Rawan's part was translated by Sawad Hussein, and Ghady's part by Marcia Lynx Qualey.



The Amazing Card
Illustrated by Mona
Yakzan and Hiba Farran
Dar Al Salwa | 2014

The story is about a little boy, Marwan, who is the narrator.

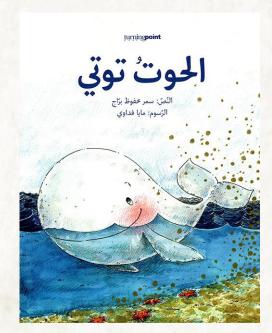
Before Marwan's parents go on a trip, his dad tells him:

"In our absence, you can take whatever you want from Mr. Farid's shop in the neighborhood, and from Mr. Hassan's kiosk at school. I'll pay them when I come back. But remember! Within limits."

Without really understanding what — within limits — means, Marwan starts offering snacks, juice etc... to his friends and classmates and becomes popular at school. He thinks his dad will pay any amount, as he has a 'magical card' that he inserts in a machine which gives him as much money as he wants. When his parents return, there will be a surprise waiting for them!

The book brings up the subjects of money, bank, saving and sharing with others in a simple and fun way.







The Whale Tutti
Illustrated by Maya Fidawi
Turning Point | 2014

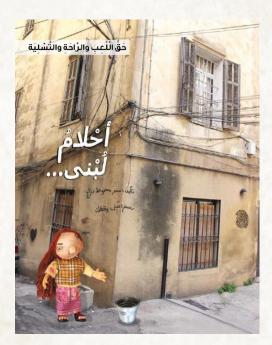
The book tells the story of a cute little whale named Tutti who lives in the ocean with his family and friends, the dolphin Fino and the octopus Tuptup. When Tutti swims with his mother and gets tired, she lifts him up to rest. He watches the horizon far away. Tutti's grandmother tells him stories about his ancestors who left to discover what is hidden behind the horizon and never came back.

The idea of leaving to where life might be better and safer never leaves Tutti. When he grows up, he decides to leave once he gets the chance to do so. One day he tries to follow a group of whales, but his friend Fino, the dolphin, warns him that the whales are heading to an island where they will get stuck in the sand. Tutti and Fino decide to warn the group of whales and save them.

Tutti the Whale is a gripping story with riveting characters. It is about family, friends, taking risks, and willing to discover the unknown. It can be relevant to many families where their children's dreams has taken them behind the horizon. Immigration is also one of the topics addressed in this book, where people find themselves compelled to leave their home country in order to find a better place to live in.

### 10 important titles







Loubna's Dreams (part of 'colorful stories' book)
Illustrated by Mona Yakzan
Dar El Moualef | 2018

Loubna's dreams is a story in a book dealing with children rights, entitled "Colorful stories", that includes 6 different stories each written by an author and illustrated by an artist.

The story starts as Lubna was fighting an imaginary monster while playing with water and soap on the stairs of her building. While jumping from one floor to another with her imaginary 'magical shoes' to fight the monster, Lubna keeps on pouring soap to water and sweeping it down stairs to reach the ground floor. As the water flushes to the streets and hits Abou Youssef's cart, Lubna celebrates her victory on the monster. As she was screaming: "Don't come here again not until next Thursday!"- (the day, when Lubna usually cleans the stairs)-, she hears her dad's angry voice yelling at her and before she even gets the chance to reply, she feels a hurtful hit on her shoulder coming from him. Lubna doesn't react, as this isn't the first time. As the story keeps unfolding, we discover how unfortunate Lubna's life is. Lubna the daughter of the building concierge lives in a small apartment with her two brothers, mom and dad. Lubna unlike her brothers isn't allowed to go to school any more. She has to work with her dad and assists him with the residents' demands. Sometimes Lubna finds herself in some uncomfortable situations, for instance her neighbor at the first floor and his strange suspicious looks. Of course Lubna has no control over her life choices and if it for her to choose, she would choose to go school like her peer children.

The book is an eye-opener on the unfortunate lives of many children like Lubna where their basic human rights are neglected. Children like Lubna are deprived from their right to education, right to play and recreation, right to be protected from abuse and harm. The story takes the reader on an exciting yet emotional journey with Lubna, as the story of this joyful little girl turns to be a sad one. The brilliant and fast moving storyline serves the unfolding of events presented in the story. Stories like Lubna's Dreams bring the topic of children's rights to the table and keep the discussion around it ongoing by being the voice of these children.

### 10 important titles

9



تَخِيِّلَتُ نَفْسَها مع جَدْتِها على الأريكَةِ في غُرُفَة الجُلوسِ، تَضُمُّها إليها وَتَشُمُّ رائِحَةَ الصَّابِونِ البَلَديُّ المُغَطَّرِ الَّذِي تُفَضَّلُهُ جَدَّتُها على أيُّ صَابِونِ آخَرَ!

تَغَيِّلَتْ نَفْسَها فِي مَلْعَبِ مَدْرَسَتِها، تَتَحَدُّثُ مَعَ أَضْدِقائِها بَيْنَها تَغْمِسُ حَبَاتِ اللَّوْزِ الأَخْضَرِ فِي المِلْحِ وَتَأْكُلُها مَعَهُم.

هَّنَتْ لَوْ تَظَلُّ هُناكَ، فِي الْقَلِكَيَّةِ الَّتِي تَشْتاقُ إليها ومَعَ الأَشْخاصِ الَّذِينَ تُحِبُّهُم. لا تُريدُ أَنْ تَقُتَّعَ عَيْنَيْها لِتَجِدَ نَفْسَها فِي غُرْفَتِها الجَديدَةِ،



The Purple Color
Illustrated by Dima Abu Al Hajj
Academia | 2018

Noor the main character of the book, who has recently moved to a foreign country and a new school, finds herself lonely on this new journey where many challenges are coming her way. Few weeks later, Noor meets Clara in the school playground, and they instantly become good friends.

One day, Noor's mother comes to pick her up from school and from that day on Noor's friendship with Clara takes a weird turn. The intrigued Clara starts asking Nour weird questions that arouse many concerns at Noor's side and leaves her feeling alone again. Noor's mother feels that there's something wrong with her daughter, especially when Nour asks her not to pick her up again from school. Nour demands this from her mother despite how embarrassing it is, but she thinks that this is the only way to keep her friendship with Clara.

The mother tries to comfort her girl and make her feel better; later on Noor comes with the idea of inviting Clara over to her house and introducing the family to her as a way to fix the situation. This smart initiative had a positive impact on the relation of Noor and Clara and eventually on the way Clara perceives others.

The book tackles in an indirect and smooth narration some sensitive and critical notions such as cultural differences, preconceived judgments, acceptance and embracing others differences. While using a simple language and a thoroughly worked-out storyline, the book delivers a message of acceptance and love.





Friends in the Space Illustrated by Ali Zeini Dar Al Saqi | 2021

Kareem, the narrator, is excited about writing an imaginary story. His main character is a boy called Joud whose friends are: a yellow ghost, a clown, an alien called Ricco, a purple rhinoceros and a blue monkey.

Kareem, tells his family about his story, but each one of them suggests that he does some changes to the storyline making it closer to reality:

"Joud cleaning his room and doing his homework by himself...
Joud taking care of his little sister... eating healthy food...."

Joud and his friends, the characters in Kareem's story, come to life and don't seem to like that!

Finally, Kareem decides to write the story with his three school friends, saying that children will surely like it but not all adults will.

The story is funny and sends a subliminal message about the importance of giving children the freedom to choose what they really love to do, listening to their needs and interests, and helping in igniting their imagination through providing them with inspiring books

#### **Book Fairs**

**Abu Dhabi Book Fair:** Participation in a panel organized by the British Council about encouraging children to read

Sharjah Children's reading festival: Presenting a paper in Arabic "Education Vs Cultivation"

**Abu Dhabi Book Fair:** Book Reading and signing "Grandma will always remember me"

Gothenburg Book Fair: Visits to public libraries in Stockholm, reading stories to children from Arab communities, and participating in seminars and discussions about children literature in Lebanon and the Arab world

### Reading festivals and workshops

2012

2013

**Sharjah**: Participation in the **IBBY** conference for Asia and north Africa by presenting a paper that tackles the importance of school library activities and their role in bringing books closer to the child

**Dubai:** Participation in the **Emirates Airline Festival of Literature** by presenting a creative writing workshop entitled 'Children can also write' for children, a session entitled 'from Idea to story', in addition to reading in different schools in UAE

2014

**Turkey:** Participation in the **1st International Middle East Symposium** which was organized by Kirikkale university in Turkey, by presenting a paper on the importance of children's literature in education

**Singapore**: Invited by the **UAEBBY** to participate in the Asian Festival of Children's Content 2014

2015

**Saudi Arabia:** Participated in reading festival **'takhayyal'** in Jeddah

**Qatar:** Reading stories in different schools affiliated with **Qatar Foundation** 

Romania: Reading stories to children from Arab communities at an event entitled 'stories on the map 2015' organized by Arab and foreign embassies in Bucharest

## **Selected Participations**

**Book Fairs** 

Bookfest International Book Fair: Reading stories and preparing activities to children from Arab communities in Romania at the Arabic books stand	2016	<b>Qatar</b> : Reading stories in different schools affiliated with <b>Qatar Foundation</b> , in addition to presenting workshops on story reading and library activities
Sharjah International Book Fair: Reading stories for children and presenting workshops in creative writing for children and young adults		Romania: Reading stories to children from the Arab community at an event entitled 'Fables on the map 2016' organized by Arab and foreign embassies in Bucharest
Tunis International Book Fair: Reading stories and presenting creative workshops for children in the book fair and in private schools		
Bookfest International Book Fair: Participating in various activities at the Arab embassies stand in Romania	2017	Romania: Reading stories to children from Arab communities at an event entitled 'Fables on the map 2017' organized by Arab and foreign embassies in Bucharest
Oujda book fair: participating in many reading and writing activities for children in Morocco		
Abou Dhabi Book Fair: Participation in the book launch of قصص ملؤنة (colorful stories) in which Samar wrote the story أحلام لبنى (Loubna's dreams)	2018	<b>Dubai:</b> Participation in the <b>Emirates Airline Festival of Literature</b> by presenting different workshops, a masterclass about translation and reading sessions for kids, in addition to reading in private schools
Bookfest International Book Fair: Participating in various activities at the Arab embassies stand in Romania		
Paris Book Fair: Visiting the book fair and reading stories to children from Arab communities at a center for teaching Arabic		
Bookfest International Book Fair: Participating in various activities and reading to children from the Arab communities at the Arab embassies stand and in various schools in Romania		
Bookfest International Book Fair: Participating in various reading activities	2022	UAE: Conducting 3 writing workshops with UAEBBY
	2023	UAE: Doing reading sessions and workshops with UAEBBY

Reading festivals and workshops

## **Photo Gallery**



















# **Photo Gallery**



















