

One Book, Many Communities

Code Name: Butterfly

The “One Book, Many Communities” project by Librarians and Archivists with Palestine aims to introduce readers to the richness of Palestinian literature, and create a broader awareness and understanding of Palestinian history and the struggle for self-determination.

Explore the recommended books and films below for more about Palestinian art and culture with a focus on women and youth.

Note: While some of these works are created for younger readers/viewers, others are more appropriate for adult audiences. Keep this in mind when choosing media for your group.



Books and Articles

“Demanding an End to Child Detention: Free Ahed Tamimi and All Palestinian Political Prisoners,” *Palestinian Youth Movement* (2017)

In *Code Name: Butterfly*, some of Butterfly’s peers are held in Israeli jails. A real-life example is Ahed Tamimi, who is one of 311 underage Palestinian prisoners. This article outlines Ahed’s case and provide some background information on imprisoned Palestinian youth.

<http://www.pymusa.com/demanding-an-end-to-child-detention-free-ahed-tamimi-and-all-palestini-an-political-prisoners/>

“Nom de Guerre: Butterfly,” *Words Without Borders* (2014)

A short excerpt of the novel now known in English as *Code Name: Butterfly*. This portion is from a different translator than the 2016 full-length novel, but it can be used to introduce friends to the story.

<https://www.wordswithoutborders.org/article/nom-de-guerre-butterfly>

Progressive Librarian, “A Report on the Librarians and Archivists to Palestine Delegation,” Issue No. 42, Summer 2014 (page 153).

Summarizes the history of Israeli control of Palestinian libraries and archival records, with an account from a 2013 delegation of information workers to Palestinian libraries.

http://progressivelibrariansguild.org/PL_Jnl/pdf/PL42_summer14.pdf

Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation (Saree Makdisi, 2008/2010)

Makdisi pulls together timelines, statistics, and individual stories to highlight the bureaucratic horror of Israel's policies affecting internal borders and permits, particularly in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Progressive Librarian, Issue no. 21, Winter 2002 (page 49)

A collection of articles about the destruction of Palestinian libraries and archives in the West Bank after the Israeli invasion of 2002.

http://progressivelibrariansguild.org/PL_Jnl/contents21.shtml

The Secret Life of Saeed: The Pessoptimist (Emile Habibi, 1974)

A hapless Palestinian experiencing the vagaries of Israeli repression transitions from collaboration with the occupier to redemption of a kind in this absurdist and satirical tale.

Books by Palestinian authors for children and youth

“Translations for Teens: Young Adult Literature from the Arabic” (Global Literature in Libraries Initiative, 2017)

This article outlines the rise of Arabic young adult stories, and includes recommendations available in translation.

<https://glli-us.org/2017/01/09/translations-for-teens-young-adult-literature-from-the-arabic/>

The Blue Pool of Questions by Maya Abu-Alhayyat (2017)

A deep and richly illustrated book about the power of asking questions. The website includes an activity guide for young readers.

<https://www.bluepoolofquestions.com/>

The Little Green Drum by Taghreed Najjar (2015)

A Ramadan story about a young girl in a small Palestinian village.

<http://www.lucycoats.com/books/coming-soon-the-little-green-drum-early-reader/>

The Little Lantern by Ghassan Kanafani (2005)

From the highly regarded author of 2017’s One Book title “Returning to Haifa,” this children’s story is about a princess who must capture the sun to become queen.

<https://rimalbooks.com/products/little-lantern>

Video and Film

“My childhood” (Neem Tree Press, 2017)

Author Ahlam Bsharat speaks about her childhood in Palestine. Can be found on the Neem Tree Press YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEhPp7YOA0I>

3000 Nights (dir. Mai Masri, 2017)

A recently wed Palestinian schoolteacher gives birth to her child in an Israeli prison, where she fights to protect him, survive, and maintain hope.

<http://3000nights.com/>

Speed Sisters (dir. Amber Fares, 2016)

The Speed Sisters are the first all-woman race car driving team in the Middle East. Grabbing headlines and turning heads at improvised tracks across the West Bank, these five women have sped their way into the heart of the gritty, male-dominated Palestinian street car-racing scene.
<http://speedsisters.tv/>

The Great Book Robbery (dir. Benny Brunner, 2012)

Explores the history of the removal of Palestinian libraries and archival records into Israeli repositories.
<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/witness/2012/05/20125915313256768.html>

Slingshot Hip Hop (dir. Jackie Reem Salloum, 2008)

This documentary traces the history and development of Palestinian hip hop.
<http://www.slingshothiphop.com/>



Author Ahlam Bsharat recalls growing up in Palestine in “My childhood” on the Neem Tree Press YouTube channel.