young adult literature on israel/palestine

These works connect young adults to the peoples, cultures and histories of Israel/Palestine. They are all available from the Outreach Center, http://cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu/outreach.

**A Stone in My Hand**, by Cathryn Clinton
Set in Gaza City during the first intifada in 1988, this is the story of 11-year-old Malaak and her family. Malaak shows resilience through immeasurable losses. Written by an American author, this historical fiction attempts to portray the realities of the Israeli occupation in Gaza from a Palestinian perspective.

**Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood**, by Ibtisam Barakat
“Ibtisam Barakat is not only a luminous writer and thinker, she is a wondrous healer, too. In this exquisite, tender account of her Palestinian childhood, nothing is missing—love, attachment, struggle, fear, humor, resilience. The child in this story carries more wisdom and a keener sense of justice and injustice than do most people in seats of power.” —Naomi Shihab Nye, author of *Habibi*

**If You Could Be My Friend**: *Letters of Mervet Akram Sha’Ban and Galit Fink*, by Litsa Boudalika
This collection of letters written from 1988 to 1991 during the time of the first intifada consists of the correspondence between a Palestinian girl living in a refugee camp in the West Bank and an Israeli girl living in Jerusalem. This book is useful for inspiring young people to take positive action towards intercultural understanding across lines of conflict.
Samir and Yonatan, by Daniella Carmi
A Palestinian boy comes to terms with the death of his younger brother, killed by an Israeli soldier, in this slow-paced but moving novel. Samir has shattered his kneebone riding his bicycle down the market steps. Traveling outside of the Occupied Territories for the first time, Samir awaits surgery at a hospital in Israel. While he waits, he gets to know the Israeli children on his ward. Originally published in Hebrew in 1994, this Israeli author shares her view of friendship across lines of conflict. It is sure to spark positive classroom dialogue.

Habibi, by Naomi Shihab Nye
An important first novel from a distinguished anthropologist and poet. Liyana Abboud, 14, and her family make a tremendous life adjustment when they move to Jerusalem from St. Louis. Arriving in Jerusalem, Liyana and her family are immersed in the Palestinian culture of her father’s extended family. As she explores her bi-cultural identity and intercultural dating within the context of Palestine/Israel, Liyana will intrigue readers with her rich adventures.

Figs and Fate, by Elsa Marston
"Five short stories about growing up in the Arab world today are told from the perspective of young Arab teens living in Syria, Lebanon, a Palestinian refugee camp, Egypt, and Iraq. Marston beautifully details the rich culture of these youths and their families, helping in the process to dispel negative stereotypes associated with young adults living in these societies." — Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC). The Outreach Center has a teaching guide for this book created by the author.

For further information, and to check out these books, please contact
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