

# Empowering Learning and Language with Muslim Immigrant Youth and Families

Compiled by Heather Homonoff Woodley, Ph.D.,  
[hwoodley@nyu.edu](mailto:hwoodley@nyu.edu)

What is the Truth About American Muslims: Questions and Answers, Interfaith Alliance and the Religious Freedom Education Project, FAQs:  
<http://interfaithalliance.org/americanmuslimfaq/>; Full PDF: <http://ia-joomla.danny.cshp.co/cms/assets/uploads/2012/10/What is the Truth About American Muslims.pdf>

In the Face of Xenophobia: Lessons to address bullying of South Asian American youth, SAALT, <http://saalt.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/In-the-Face-of-Xenophobia.pdf>

*Rethinking the Region: New approaches to 9-12 US Curriculum on the Middle East and North Africa*, <http://www.teach-mena.org/curriculum.pdf>

Guidelines for Teaching About Religion in K-12 Public Schools in the United States, <https://www.aarweb.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Publications/epublications/AARK-12CurriculumGuidelines.pdf>

How do you bring Islam into the Classroom? Teaching Tolerance, <http://www.tolerance.org/blog/how-do-you-bring-islam-classroom>

## LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

**It is important to portray Muslims in two different ways when choosing literature: (1) Characters that are deliberately Muslim and are explicitly identified. (2) Characters that “happen to be” Muslim and are not explicitly identified.**

Literature with positive portrayals of Muslim characters, Islam and/or the Middle East/North Africa:

- *The Best Eid Ever (Mobin-Uddin)*
- *Under the Ramadan Moon (Whitman)*
- *Ms. Marvel (Wilson)*
- *Persepolis (Satrapi)*
- *The Butter Man (Alalou & Alalou)*
- *The Kite Runner; A Thousand Splendid Suns (Hosseini)*

- *The Flag of Childhood: Poems from the Middle East* (Nye)
- *I Am Malala* (Yousafzai)

List of literature with Muslim characters: <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/muslim-characters>

List of picture books with Muslim or Middle Eastern characters:  
<http://blog.leeandlow.com/2014/05/15/book-list-picture-books-about-muslim-or-middle-eastern-characters/>

Thornwood Elementary School Dual Language Showcase (bilingual books),  
[www.thornwoodps.ca/dual/](http://www.thornwoodps.ca/dual/)

Bilingual Content Glossaries, NY State,  
[http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/bilinged/bilingual\\_glossaries.htm](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/bilinged/bilingual_glossaries.htm)

The Languages of NY State: A CUNY-NYSIEB Guide for Educators,  
<http://www.nysieb.ws.gc.cuny.edu/files/2012/07/NYSLanguageProfiles.pdf>

Translanguaging: A CUNY-NYSIEB Guide for Educators, <http://www.cuny-nysieb.org/translanguaging-resources/translanguaging-guides/>

Translanguaging in Curriculum and Instruction: A CUNY-NYSIEB Guide for Educators,  
<http://www.cuny-nysieb.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Translanguaging-Guide-Curr-Inst-Final-December-2014.pdf>

Additional resources (videos, educator guides, student resources, leadership materials and more) can be found at [www.cuny-nysieb.org](http://www.cuny-nysieb.org)

239 Greene Street | 318 | New York, New York 10003 212 998 5460 | 212 992 9364 |  
[www.steinhardt.nyu.edu/teachlearn/mms](http://www.steinhardt.nyu.edu/teachlearn/mms)