This multimedia resource list, compiled by Gina Blume of Monroe Township Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *The Light in Her Eyes*.

Houda al-Habash, a conservative Muslim preacher, founded a Qur’an school for girls in Damascus, Syria, 30 years ago. Every summer, her female students immerse themselves in a rigorous study of Islam. A surprising cultural shift is underway — women are claiming space within the mosque. Shot right before the uprising in Syria erupted, *The Light in Her Eyes* offers an extraordinary portrait of a leader who challenges the women of her community to live according to Islam, without giving up their dreams.

**ADULT NONFICTION**

**Syria (History, Culture)**


Leverett, Flynt. *Inheriting Syria: Bashar’s Trial by Fire*. Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2005. This book is a resource for general audiences and academia providing an in-depth look on topics including Syria’s occupation of Lebanon, the war on terror, its support of Hezbollah, and the dictatorship under the al-Assad family.

**Muslim Feminism**


**Islamic Beliefs and Practices**

Holland, Tom. *In the Shadow of the Sword: The Birth of Islam and the Rise of the Global Arab Empire*. New York: Doubleday, 2012. The evolution of the Arab empire is one of the supreme narratives of ancient history. Just like the Romans, the Arabs came from nowhere to carve out a stupefyingly vast dominion—except that they achieved their conquests in a matter of decades. Just like the Greeks during the Persian wars, they overcame seemingly insuperable odds to emerge triumphant against the greatest empire of the day.


**Arab Awakening and Islamic Revival**

Bradley, John R. *After the Arab Spring: How Islamists Hijacked the Middle East Revolts*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. A seasoned reporter based in the Middle East provides first-hand knowledge and analysis of how the divisions within the various sects of Islam are playing a role in the emerging governments after the uprisings.


Lynch, Marc. *The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East*. New York: Public Affairs, 2012. This is an examination of the uprisings that began in Tunisia and continue on in Yemen, Bahrain and Syria and what the rise of the Islamist movements in these emerging democracies mean to their neighboring countries and for the West.

Wright, Robin. *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion across the Islamic World*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2011. A decade after the 9/11 attacks, this groundbreaking book by a preeminent reporter takes readers deep into the struggle within the Muslim world where a growing movement defies and
Delve Deeper into The Light in Her Eyes
A film by Julia Meltzer and Laura Nix

challenges extremism and repudiates Osama bin Laden, his deviant doctrine, and his violent disciples.

ADULT FICTION


Pasha, Kamran. Mother of the Believers: A Novel of the Birth of Islam. New York: Washington Square Press, 2009. This is an epic novel based on meticulous research about the widow of the Prophet Muhammad and her role in shepherding Islam into the world.

Tamer, Zakaria. Breaking Knees: Modern Arabic Short Stories from Syria. Reading (UK): Garnet Publishing, 2008. The general theme of Breaking Knees, as of much of Tamer’s work, is repression: of the individual by the institutions of state and religion and of individuals by each other, particularly women by men.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS


Maydell, Natalie and Sep Riahi. Extraordinary Women from the Muslim World. Global Content Publishing, 2008. Multi-award winning picture book chronicling the lives of 13 Muslim women in history who have lived extraordinary lives and influenced their communities in a positive way, often overcoming extreme hardship and inaccurate stereotypes.


FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. Does My Head Look Big In This. Australia: Pac Macmillan Australia, 2005. After making the decision to wear her hijab all the time, 16 year-old Amal must learn to deal with the prejudice, taunts, and miscomprehension of those around her.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

