

Delve Deeper into *5 Broken Cameras*

A film by **Emad Burnat and Guy Davidi**

This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Penny Talbert and Rebecca Zinner of Ephrata Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *5 Broken Cameras*.

Nominated for an Oscar®, 5 Broken Cameras is a deeply personal first-hand account of life and nonviolent resistance in Bil'in, a West Bank village where Israel is building a security fence. Palestinian Emad Burnat, who bought his first camera in 2005 to record the birth of his youngest son, shot the film and Israeli filmmaker Guy Davidi co-directed. The filmmakers follow one family's evolution over five years, witnessing a child's growth from a newborn baby into a young boy who observes the world unfolding around him. The film is a Palestinian-Israeli-French co-production.

ADULT NONFICTION

Bennis, Phyllis. *Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Primer*. Northampton, MA, Olive Branch Press, 2007. The conflict in the Middle East, with its long history and many intricacies, can seem overwhelming to those with little knowledge of the underlying issues in this part of the world. This succinct primer provides the answers in straightforward language to some of the most confounding questions regarding this well-known yet poorly understood conflict.

Myre, Greg and Griffin, Jennifer. *This Burning Land: Lessons From the Front Lines of the Transformed Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2010. In "This Burning Land," two journalists, Greg Myre, a former New York Times reporter, and his wife, Jennifer Griffin, a Fox News correspondent, hope to start a new life and raise a family in Jerusalem of 1999. However, the reality of their dream proves

to be difficult as they witness increasing tensions between Israelis and Palestinians.

Tolan, Sandy. *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*. New York: Bloomsbury Publishers, 2006. This true story of an unlikely friendship between an Israeli and a Palestinian began in 1967 when Bashir Al-Khayri, a Palestinian, journeys to Israel in hopes of seeing the house from which his family had fled nineteen years earlier and the beloved lemon tree that grew behind it. Upon his arrival, he meets Dalia Ashkenazi Landau, the house's current resident. In this book, Tolan provides a history of the conflict alongside the history of this unique friendship.

Holliday, Laurel. *Children of Israel, Children of Palestine: Our Own True Stories*. New York: Pocket Books, 1998. In this title, Holliday compiles the coming-of-age stories of thirty-six Israelis and Palestinians who grew up in an environment of war and violence. Bringing a human element to this ever-present conflict, this book reveals the effects of this war on the individual.

Adwân, Sâmî Abd al-Razzâq, Bar-On, Dan, et al. *Side By Side: Parallel Histories of Israel/Palestine*. New York: The New Press, 2012. Troubled by the differences found in Israeli and Palestinian textbooks regarding the same historical events, teachers from both nations gathered in 2000 in an attempt to remedy these discrepancies. This book is the result of that meeting; two narratives published side by side that allow the reader to easily spot the differences, as well as the similarities, between the two histories.

Laquer, Walter and Rubin, Barry. *The Israel-Arab OHistory of the Middle East Conflict*. New York: Facts on File, 2008. Hailed as an objective history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, this book provides a detailed and up-to-

date portrait of the past century of strife in the Middle East.

ADULT FICTION

Goldscheider, Barbara. *Al-Naqba (The Catastrophe)*. Berkeley, CA: Frog, Ltd, 2005. *Al-Naqba, The Catastrophe*, relays the stories of two Middle Eastern natives who are on opposite sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, one an elite Palestinian Arab and the other an officer of the Israeli Defense Forces. Based on Goldscheider's own experiences and observations, this novel realistically reflects the real-life conflict that serves as a backdrop to her fictional characters.

Abulhawa, Susan. *Mornings in Jenin: A Novel*. New York, Bloomsbury, 2010. In *Mornings in Jenin*, we are introduced to the Abulhawa, a Palestinian family that has been forcibly removed from the village of Ein Hod and moved to a refugee camp as a result of the formation of the state of Israel. Providing a Palestinian point of view to the Middle Eastern conflict through the tales of four generations from this refugee family, Abulhawa directly addresses the horrors that have been endured while simultaneously preserving the humanity of individuals on both sides of the conflict.

Khadra, Yasmina and Cullen, John. *The Attack*. New York: Nan A. Talese: Doubleday, 2005. Arab-Israeli surgeon, Dr. Amin Jaafari, has worked hard to create a stable and comfortable life for himself and his wife, Sihem, in Tel Aviv. When Sihem is killed in a suicide bombing and evidence is found that she may have been the bomber, Jaafari must face the reality of that the union he shared with his beloved wife may have been built on artifice and deceit.

Boianjiu, Shani. *The People of Forever Are Not Afraid: A Novel*. London: Hogarth, 2012. When childhood friends



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from a tiny Israeli village, Yael, Avishag, and Lea, are conscripted into the army, the girls realize that their teenage concerns about boredom and school are far behind them. As the young women train relentlessly, they are forced to face the stark reality of a life at the edge of violence.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Ellis, Deborah. *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*. Toronto: Greenwood Books, 2004. In *Three Wishes*, we hear the stories of children caught on either side of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in their own words. Passages range from the predictable childhood complaints about vegetables to their jarring experiences witnessing violence and destruction. *Three Wishes* not only puts a human face on the Middle Eastern conflict, it also makes learning about the conflict more accessible to young readers all over the world.

Barakat Ibtisam. *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. In this moving memoir, Barakat relays the memories of her childhood as a Palestinian refugee during the time of the Six-Day War. *Tasting the Sky* goes beyond the bare facts by providing a rare look of the Middle Eastern conflict through a child's eyes.

Sha'ban, Mervet Akram, Fink, Galit and Boudalika, Litsa. *If You Could Be My Friend: Letters of Mervet Akram Sha'ban and Galit Fink*. New York: Orchard Books, 1998. When 12 year-olds Mervet, a Palestinian, and Galit, an Israeli, begin corresponding, they are initially enthusiastic about sharing their interests and becoming friends. However, when political developments bring to light the differences between their families, it seems as though their friendship is not meant to be.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Laird, Elizabeth and Nimr, Sonia. *A Little Piece of Ground*. Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books, 2006.

Stuck at home with his teenaged brother and his parents by the strict curfew put in place by the Israeli military, twelve-year-old Karim Aboudi longs to play football outside with his friends. Once the curfew is lifted, the neighborhood children go back to playing and it seems that everything has returned to normal. That is, until the next curfew when Karim is found outside by Israeli soldiers.

Zenatti, Valérie and Hunter, Adraina. *A Bottle in the Gaza Sea*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury, 2008.

When seventeen-year-old Tal Levine, a native of Jerusalem, witnesses a terrorist bombing, she is shaken to her core. She had always hoped that peace would come to the Middle East, but her hope begins to fade with this latest event. Moved to action, she pens a letter, puts it in a bottle, and throws it into the Gaza Sea. Much to her surprise, a Palestinian boy finds her letter and responds.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Habibi*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997.

Liyana is in for a surprise when her father announces that their family is moving from St. Louis to his home land of Palestine. Liyana, who knows little about her Arab heritage, has trouble assimilating to the different culture and feels lost as she is introduced to family members who are complete strangers. Her homesickness subsides, however, when she meets a Jewish boy named Omer.

