Books from Lebanon

This list is built on the investigations made by Maha Alwan in public libraries in Lebanon. Forms were sent to one hundred public libraries in all parts of Lebanon and responses were received from 30 libraries. The result, based on the project’s criteria for section, reflects the preferences of readers.

1. Samar Mahfuz • Baraj Lena Merhej, ill.

الم الك اصد

Lam akoun aqsid [It was not my intention]
Assala, 2007 • ISBN 9953470065

The story of a girl who does stupid things that carry consequences. But each time she learns from her own mistakes. A glimmer in her eyes is reminiscent at the end of this album that she thinks about another stupid thing...

2. Amal Ayoub • Frayji Michèle Standjofski, ill.

أح رجل

Akh rijli [Ouch my leg]
Dar al-ilm Lilmalayin, 2006 • ISBN 9953633762

Jad, a young boy keeps moving, but one day he falls and breaks his leg. A story that softens the pain of children’s everyday life.

3. Fatima Charaf Al-Din • Hiba Farran, ill.

نوعا وقصطها

Nura wa qissatuha [Nora and her History]
Assala, 2008 • ISBN 9789953488578

Illustrations that are full of details, and a beautiful calligraphy, recount the life of the ant Noura. A fable about the life of ants which reflects the formative experience of Noura. After saving her friends and family from a terrible flood she regains confidence in herself and returns to her family.
4 Nadine R.L. Touma • Lana Khayat, ill.
القرم والوروار
*Al-Qamar wa-l-wirwar [The Moon and the bird]*
Dar Onboz, 2006 • ISBN 9953465037

The moon and the bird are close friends, they eat and play together all day long. A rhythmic lullaby introduces the reader into a gentle drowsiness. A CD accompanies the book.

5 Rania Saghir • Samar Ziadeh, ill.
العملاق العملاق
*Al-imlaq el imlaq [The great geant]*
Turning point, 2005 • ISBN 99530000204

A child feels his “big” hands, his “big” feet, his “big” eyes. Beside his mother he discovers his real size.

6 Caroline Hemadeh
ياسمينة والسمكة
*Yasmina wa essamaka [Yasmina and the fish]*
Assala, 2007 • ISBN 9953470804

A part of learning Arabic language series. The letter and the sound "S" are often repeated throughout the text.

7 Samah Idriss • Yasmin Nachabeh Taan, ill.
 قصة الكوعسي
*Qissat el-Koussa [The History of zucchini]*

Oussama does not like zucchini, but his mom invented a trick to make him eat more zucchini. A book that breaks the taboo of using colloquial Arabic in children’s book. Illustrations are innovative and feature rich details.
Mazen tells his life and the lives of his neighbors during the Lebanese civil war. Their hiding place, its organization and how they shared responsibilities. He also talks about his first love, during the war.

Having lost his parents in an accident, Nada lives with her old aunt. She seeks to help her but it’s very hard for a young girl of her age. An uncle living in America comes to rescue the family but Nada refuses to leave Lebanon.

How to write a book? Ghassan’s mother is a writer, she tells him how to make books, from the idea until the printing. In class, Ghassan is very proud of his mother who wrote the book chosen by the teacher.