

# Annotated Resources on Veiling

- Abdel-Fattah, Randa. *Does My Head Look Big In This?* London: Orchard Books, 2007.  
This fictional coming-of-age novel stars a 16-year-old heroine who deals with the trials of adolescence and her own Islamic beliefs. Amal Mohamed Nasrullah Abdel-Hakim, a sixteen-year-old Australian-Palestinian-Muslim, decides to wear the veil fulltime after much thought and watching an episode of *Friends*. This text works well for young adults, as the text deals with the modern struggles all adolescents must face.
- Ahmed, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.  
This book investigates the fundamental discourses on women and gender in the Middle East. Through an examination of the history of the veil, Ahmed reveals the political agendas behind most discussions of the veil and argues the case that feminist goals can also be pursued within Middle Eastern culture and religion.
- Bigelow, Bill, Sandra Childs, Norm Diamond, Diana Dickerson, and Jan Haaken. *Scarves of Many Colors: Muslim Women and the Veil*. Portland, Oregon: Joan Hawkinson Bohorfoush Memorial Foundation, 2000.  
This book with accompanying audio CD provides a curriculum about veiling and an accompanying radio documentary featuring Muslim women. There are two lessons focusing on stereotyping of veiled women and the experience of veiled women. These lessons are followed by lessons that encourage students to role play as international tribunal members and as interviewers. The lessons do not address non-Arab Muslim women or the tenants of Islamic dress.
- Chatty, Dawn. "The Burqa Face Cover: An Aspect of Dress in Southeastern Arabia." *Languages of Dress in the Middle East*. Eds. Nancy Lindisfarne-Tapper and Bruce Ingham. Richmond, Surrey: Curzon, 1997.  
This article covers a brief history of the veil from pre-Islamic times to colonization to the present day. Chatty outlines the various positions in relation to veiling and includes a case study of Oman with pictures of veiling in Southeastern Arabian regions. The text emphasizes the veil's symbolism in relation to its context and community, by arguing about the veil's changing meaning and multiplicity of meaning.
- El Guindi, Fadwa. *Veil: Modesty, Privacy and Resistance*. New York, NY: Berg, 1999.  
Fadwa's book argues for the social contextualization of the veil in relation to male dress codes. She points out that veiling is not about shame and oppression, but about group identity, power, respectability, and rank.

Göle, Nilüfer. *The Forbidden Modern: Civilization and Veiling*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996.

This text focuses on the veil in Turkey and its politicization since the late Ottoman Empire. Göle argues that the veil has become an issue of social power relations, obstructing issues of gender equality. The book includes discussions with women in Turkey. Veiling is described as a form of modernity and dealing with its specific struggles.

Kawaja, Jennifer. *Under One Sky: Arab Women in North America Talk about the Hijab*. National Film Board of Canada. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1999.

This documentary presents the history of Arab woman, from the days of early colonial missions to the post-Gulf War era. In the video, Arab women living in North America describe the ideologies behind the veil and question the labels imposed by both East and West.

Mernissi, Fatima. *Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in a Modern Muslim Society*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987.

Mernissi analyzes the changing position of women in the Middle East, especially in respect to male-female dynamics. She begins with the pre-Islamic period and moves to the present day, focusing on Morocco and the clash between modernization and Islamic and Moroccan cultural beliefs. The text challenges female inferiority, tries to find the point of women's subordination and segregation in the Middle East, and questions the function of modernity in Morocco.

Shirazi, Faegheh. *The Veil Unveiled: The Hijab in Modern Culture*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2001.

This provocative book demonstrates that the veil holds within its folds a versatility that goes beyond current clichés and homogenous representations. Whether seen as erotic or as romantic, a symbol of oppression or a sign of piety, modesty, or purity, the veil carries thousands of years of religious, sexual, social, and political significance.