Introduction

The Bibliography is intended to expand our points of view on the lives and experiences of Palestinians in Israel/Palestine post-1948 among children and youth. Stories about Palestinians have not been heard or studied often in classrooms, churches, synagogues, and community settings in the United States. It is our hope that this Bibliography will contribute to the growing movement to challenge those omissions. The compilation has depended on volunteers who gathered materials and then offered their insights on each resource. As they did their work, a few of these volunteers shared some insights on their own experiences with unheard stories:

- I remember enrolling in a “World History or Literature” course only to find, in retrospect, that the course wasn’t about the world, but was really focused on Europe and excluded places like South America, Africa or Asia.
- I took a variety of music courses in middle and high school and only later realized that all the composers we studied were men!
- I grew up in the South and am horrified to say that I never learned about lynchings in the South from any of the American history books we used.
- I know many of us learned about the “discovery” of America by Christopher Columbus without ever exploring the impact on the dispossessed native peoples who were already in this country.

These experiences confirm that there are untold stories and unheard voices in the accounts we learned about our world, our history and our current context. When we acknowledge the gaps in our perspectives, we have the opportunity to examine what we thought we knew. This Bibliography is not intended to be exhaustive, definitive or complete. The resources do however address potential gaps in our understanding of Israel/Palestine in our contemporary world – a world that includes United Nations resolutions and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Geneva Conventions, Amnesty International, Adalah, B’tselem and Human Rights Watch. Ours is a world, in other words, in which justice and human dignity is
acknowledged as a struggle that matters to millions. These resources deserve to be part of that discourse for the next generation.

The Bibliography includes picture books for the very young, chapter books for elementary and middle school children, novels, memoirs, graphic novels for high school youth, as well as curriculum materials for parents and teachers. It also includes selected videos and films that are appropriate for children and/or youth, prekindergarten through high school. The list was carefully constructed after each resource was read and reviewed by at least one volunteer who expressed a commitment to this project. The volunteers were educators, church and synagogue members, and members of peace and justice organizations. We hope that our audience includes families, clergy, rabbis, imams and their congregations as well as youth groups, Sunday School teachers, secular teachers and students in schools. We invite peace and justice organizations to explore how they may use these resources with children and youth and share them with their stakeholders and communities.

Each entry provides a descriptive overview of the content, format, length, and general age category for the resource. It then offers a brief assessment and how the material might be used. Writer Anne LaMott says that stories are flashlights. We hope that these stories shed some light and engage future generations in their own stories of hope, dignity and peace.