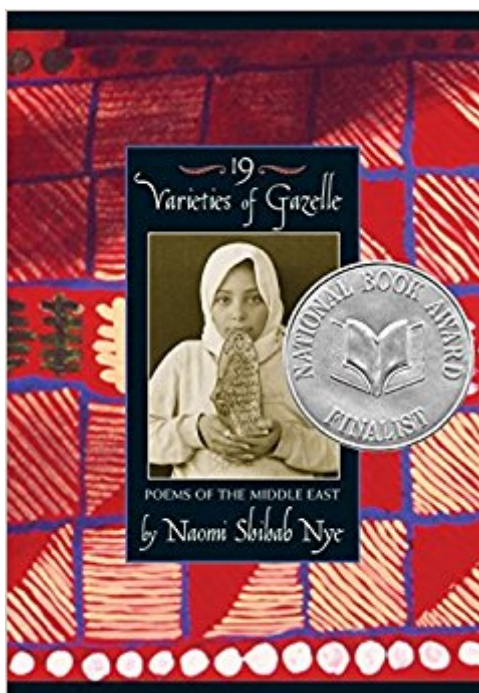


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# 19 Varieties Of Gazelle: Poems Of The Middle East



## Synopsis

"Tell me how to live so many lives at once ..."Fowzi, who beats everyone at dominoes; Ibtisam, who wanted to be a doctor; Abu Mahmoud, who knows every eggplant and peach in his West Bank garden; mysterious Uncle Mohammed, who moved to the mountain; a girl in a red sweater dangling a book bag; children in velvet dresses who haunt the candy bowl at the party; Baba Kamalyari, age 71; Mr. Dajani and his swans; Sitti Khadra, who never lost her peace inside. Maybe they have something to tell us. Naomi Shihab Nye has been writing about being Arab-American, about Jerusalem, about the West Bank, about family all her life. These new and collected poems of the Middle East -- sixty in all -- appear together here for the first time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As she grieved over the "huge shadow [that] had been cast across the lives of so many innocent people and an ancient culture's pride" after September 11, 2001, poet and author Naomi Shihab Nye's natural response was to write, to grasp "onto details to stay afloat." Accordingly, Nye has gathered over four dozen of her own poems about the Middle East and about being an Arab American living in the United States. Devoted followers of the award-winning and beloved poet will recognize some of their favorites from her earlier collections (*The Space Between Our Footsteps: Poems and Paintings from the Middle East, etc.*), while absorbing themselves in her new haunting and evocative poems. Nye writes of figs and olives, fathers' blessings and grandmothers' hands that "recognize grapes, / and the damp shine of a goat's new skin." She writes of Palestinians, living and

dead, of war, and of peace. Readers of all ages will be profoundly moved by the vitality and hope in these beautiful lines from Nye's heart. (Ages 9 to adult) --Emilie Coulter

Beginning with a work inspired by the events of September 11, Naomi Shihab Nye brings together 60 of her poems in *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East* including "Different Ways to Pray," "The Palestinians Have Given Up Parties" and "Football." Many of the poems, which focus on the Middle East and the Arab-American experience, have appeared in previous collections; others are published here for the first time. An excellent way to invite exploration and discussion of events far away and their impact here at home. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Hopkins said that poetry is an out shaping of the interiority of human experience. This is certainly true here. There are realities that are at the heart of human experience that cannot be captured in prose. The heart of much of the experience of Palestinian people can be found in these poems. For those who want to understand beyond the linear logic of prose and the bias of news, this book is a good place to start.

I enjoyed the poems in this small collection. The images are strong and the emotion authentic. It is a brief, but powerful, look at the personal joys and sorrows of the people who are often in the news but are rarely seen up close.

as advertised, like new.

Great read and best price I could find. Highly recommended.

Easy reading. Good and deep concept. Not like your lonely poetry book and some point brought tears to the eyes.

This book is really interesting and easy to read. If you love poetry and are looking for something eye-opening, look no further.

In her introduction to *"19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East,"* Naomi Shihab Nye writes that after the September 11 attacks, "a huge shadow had been cast across the lives of so many innocent people and an ancient culture's pride." (Nye, xv) As an American born girl with a Middle

Eastern father, Nye can write from behind that shadow, shedding light on the tormented hearts of Arab-Americans trying to come to terms with September 11th. When Americans think of the Middle East, we often think only of the hatred and violence of terrorism. It is important, therefore, to read poetry by writers like Nye, who help us to remember that there is love, generosity and beauty to be found there too. Her poems have a beautiful simplicity and loving honesty that can speak to both children and adults. I especially connected to the poems Nye wrote about the members of her family, such as "For Mohammed on the Mountain" and "My Grandmother in the Stars". The poem about her uncle inspired me to write about family members I hardly know or have never met. Reading Naomi Shihab Nye's poetry reminded me of the great wealth we all have of places and people who are especially deep in our hearts--a richness unique to our own experience that can be a wonderful source of writing material. Nye is a shining example of a writer who uses her gift to promote a message of peace and understanding in a world stained with fear, hate and close-mindedness.

This little - and I mean little, the book is pint sized - book is absolutely amazing. She is a wonderful poet, and, for someone whose life has been touched so much by the Middle-East and particularly by the pain in all the conflicts, she really expresses the emotions that all of us feel. I have preformed four or five of the poems in this book at competitions, and one of the things I love is that, for the most part, all her poems were originally in English. So you get to see and preform the simple beauty in the words along with the meaning. This is lost in other poets, such as Yehudah Amichai or Mahmoud Darwish, who originally wrote in Hebrew/Arabic. Just a note for anyone who cares: there's a beautiful poem called "Jerusalem" in this book that's also published all over the internet. If you buy "Words under Words," she has another poem called "Jerusalem," but it's a TOTALLY different poem. Still a good collection though :]

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