

Literature for a *Changing World*

Effective Literature Studies in an *American Islamic High School*



Your Types of Texts

- 1. Identifiable themes that are present in the text.
- 2. A specific author's style.
- 3. A specific author's perspective.
- 4. A specific author's background.
- 5. A specific author's cultural and social background.
- 6. A specific author's identity (race, gender, class, etc.).

Other Discussion

- 1. A specific author's perspective.
- 2. A specific author's background.
- 3. A specific author's cultural and social background.
- 4. A specific author's identity (race, gender, class, etc.).



Hiring an Internet Lesson: Our, Your, and Their's

Islamic schools must create an "Islamic world" in their classrooms of today. All students need for Islamic education:

- Only need the "Islamic" part of the world.
- Only need Islamic world.
- Only need Islamic world.
- Only need Islamic world.

We must know how to include different contemporary themes while also promoting an Islamic worldview.

Introduction

Provide opportunities for public school experiences.

Literature for High-School students with Middle School.

Literature is a safe space to discuss controversial themes.

Imagine an archive of literature that is open to all.

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Literature for a Changing World

Effective Literature Studies in an American Islamic High School



Introduction



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- University of Illinois
BA French
MAT ESOL
- Over 20 years
experience as an
educator &
administrator
- Experience in public,
private, and charter
schools
- Principal at Al Falah
Academy

Safia Arif

- Georgia State
University:
BA English
Education
MAT English
- Certified AP Lit instructor
- teaches English Lit &
Comp at Al Falah Academy.

Private capabilities vs.
Public school experiences

Literature for High School
students, not Middle
School

Literature is a safe space
to discuss uncomfortable
themes

Imagine an archive of
literature class lessons
plans that are perfected
for the American Islamic
High School!

We are for...

approach and worldview
event links
view of parents, family
respect
of diversity and free
texts (AP)

We must
contempo
promoting

We are for...

- Islamic approach and worldview
- current event links
- positive view of parents, family values, respect
- acceptance of diversity and free speech
- rigorous texts (AP)

...

We avoid...

- violence
- drug abuse
- sexual explicitness
- graphic content
- dystopia
- despair and negativity

- Islamic ap
- current e
- positive v
- values, re
- acceptan
- speech
- rigorous t

What is the Purpose of Literature?

- To learn about different cultures, times, peoples
- To explore themes: God, identity, culture, society
- To be aware at a deeper level of people different from ourselves
- To be aware of unseen discriminatory constructs

Students will be exposed in college,
and they have consciousness of subtle messages

Literature Studies is a contemporary field!

What is the Literary Canon?

The literary canon consists of texts that are "the best ever thought and said" which includes "the greats," like Shakespeare, Hemingway, etc.

However, the 1980's brought a reaction against these problems of the canon and created more diversity in young adult literature, including themes we try to avoid.

Having an Internal Canon: Our Novel Guidelines & Policy

Islamic schools must create an "internal canon": a common base of books all students read for shared reference

- Only read the "classics," pre-20th century?
- Only read Islamic authors?
- Only read texts from AP Lit Exam Questions, which include difficult contemporary themes?

We must know how to include difficult contemporary themes while also promoting an Islamic worldview!

Two Types of Texts

1. **Islamophobic themes**, that are generally accepted in American society
biased against Muslims and Islam
portrays bias as positive feature
against organized religion

2. **UnIslamic worldview**, that is generally praised in American society
illegal, immoral behavior
lack of parameters around love and sexual relationships
glorifies independent identity over family values

by Dick: Islamophobic
Character Development

Applied to other texts such as:

William Shakespeare
's *The Divine Comedy*,
Alighieri
Without My Daughter, Betty
Wood



The Great Gatsby:
Un-Islamic worldviews

Applied to other texts such as:
Toni Morrison
Partha, Herman Hesse
Unner, Khaled Hosseini
Light, William Shakespeare



Islamic Studies experts and
linguistics experts

Moby Dick: Islamophobic Character Development

Can be applied to other texts such as:

- *Othello*, William Shakespeare
- "Inferno" of *The Divine Comedy*, Dante Alighieri
- *Not Without My Daughter*, Betty Mahmoody



The Great Gatsby: Non-Islamic worldviews

Can be applied to other texts such as:

- *Beloved*, Toni Morrison
- *Siddhartha*, Herman Hesse
- *Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini

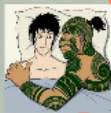
Twelfth Night, William Shakespeare



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*bring in Islamic Studies experts and Counseling experts

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A. What are some themes, yet they regarded?

B. Which novels did yet also offer a rich

C. Which novels can techniques so that to students?

D. Which novels allow contemporary theme texts?

E. Which novels should guidelines in mind? How literature, and maintain positive worldview?

*Have
Our*

Islamic

Open Discussion

- A. What are some novels that portray Islamophobic themes, yet they are contemporary and highly regarded?
- B. Which novels display a non-Islamic worldview, yet also offer a rich literary experience?
- C. Which novels can implement these instructional techniques so that they open up curricular choices to students?
- D. Which novels allow students to analyze contemporary themes and be well-versed in AP texts?
- E. Which novels should we teach with these guidelines in mind? How can students read literature, and maintain their Islamic identity with a positive worldview?

V



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Your Types of Texts

- 1. Identifiable themes that are present in all of the texts.
- 2. A single author or group of authors.
- 3. A single genre or style.
- 4. A single setting or time period.
- 5. A single point of view.
- 6. A single language or dialect.
- 7. A single cultural or historical context.
- 8. A single social or political issue.
- 9. A single religious or philosophical theme.
- 10. A single historical or geographical location.

Other Discussion

- 1. How do the texts relate to each other?
- 2. How do the texts relate to the world?
- 3. How do the texts relate to the reader?
- 4. How do the texts relate to the author?
- 5. How do the texts relate to the genre?
- 6. How do the texts relate to the style?
- 7. How do the texts relate to the setting?
- 8. How do the texts relate to the time period?
- 9. How do the texts relate to the point of view?
- 10. How do the texts relate to the language or dialect?



Hiring an Internet Lesson: Our, Your, Conclusions & Policy

Islamic schools must create an "Internet lesson" in order to meet the needs of students who are using technology.

- Only use the "Internet" for educational purposes.
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We must have a way to track different computer programs that are being used in order to promote an Islamic worldview.

Introduction

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Imagine an archive of literature that is open to all students in the American Islamic High-School.