### WRITING WORKSHOP 2010 soumyana.weebly.com/

### What Muslim Readers Say About Islamic Fiction Books

The American Muslim ummah needs more Islamic fiction. So does the rest of American society! Pamela Taylor, Director Islamic Writers Alliance

Storytelling is a traditional Islamic art and the novel brings this art right into the home. Muslims of all ages need the contemporary Muslim story as a vehicle for interpreting the world in an Islamic light. Non Muslims might also appreciate an insight into the diversity and unity of the Muslim way of life that the art of storytelling can provide. Yafiah Katherine Randall

Children love reading fiction, but they usually do not find the role models they need and deserve in mainstream books, which often promote values that are contrary to Islam. My own daughter devours several books a week, and it has been a challenge for me to find the books that will help her grow as a Muslim. By seeing how different characters deal with life's challenges, Muslim fiction can help our children develop good character and the analytical skills needed to solve everyday problems. Amel Abdullah - Managing Editor, Our Rising Star Magazine

I want to read books about Muslims like me. Saara Khalid

In developing materials and textbooks for Islamic schools I need more Islamic fiction, especially for the middle school grades. Freda Shamma, Educator

I want my kids to be able to read books with Islamic values and Muslim characters. **Arif Khalid** 

I'd love to see Islamic Fiction on store shelves. What a fresh idea to the boring cookie cutter fiction currently hogging all the space! **Brenda Birch** 

Islamic fiction is critical for ensuring the developing and prospering of young imaginative minds. Fuad Nahdi

My kids need quality Islamic fiction! Or else they might keep reading the fictions which does not teach any morals in fact which influences kids to lose morality and makes these morality issues seem attractive. WE NEED ISLAMIC FICTION. Shahida

Literature is where thoughts and cultures are expressed and recorded. So when will Muslims appear on the list of civilizations again? **Yosra Mostafa** 

| My story starts | ,<br>, , , , |  |
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My boys do have to read as a requirement for school. I would so love to give them books that help support an active, Muslim youth culture. Celeste Sahar Swaim

Study after study has shown that young people and adults who read fiction do better in life. Reading, and writing fiction, improves grammar skills that are vital in the workplace and increases the vocabulary. It also strengthens creativity and self-expression, helping to develop persuasive speaking skills. Not only that, important tests like the SATs and GREs require students to read, analyze and write about fiction selections. **Linda Delgado.** 

#### Islamic publishers who sell Islamic Fiction:

http://onlineislamicstore.com/ http://www.noorart.com/

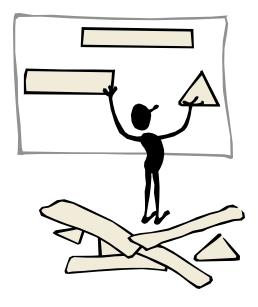
http://www.islamicwritersalliance.net/home.html

# Activity 1 — Writing Dialogue

**A.** Use a scrap of real-life dialogue as the starting point for a story.



B. Then CHANGE SOMETHING in this dialogue so it isn't real-life anymore.



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| Activity 2 — Setting the                                     |  |
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| Scene Scene  |  |
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| <b>C.</b> Look around the room where you are for 30 seconds. |  |
| Then close your eyes and                                     |  |
| SLOWLY RE-CREATE   |  |
| the room in your imagination.                                |  |
| Close your eyes for ONE MINUTE.                              |  |
| How does it look there?                                      |  |
| What SOUNDS do you hear?                                     |  |
| Voices?  |  |
| Music?   |  |
| What SMELLS?   |  |
| How does it FEEL? What is the temperature?                   |  |
| What are the textures?                                       |  |
| What are people eating?                                      |  |
| man and propose canalig.                                     |  |
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| <b>D.</b> Now go back to the dialogue you have               |  |
| Written and WRITE A NEW BEGINNING                            |  |
| that sets the scene for the dialogue.                        |  |
| that sets the seeme for the dialogue.                        |  |
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### Activity 3 — Character Descriptions

**E.** First, since we're trying to get a draft of a story, think in your mind about what is going to happen in this story.



F. Second, go back into what you've already written, and find a place to add some description of PEOPLE or CREATURES. FEEL their handshake, notice the TEXTURE of their hair and clothes, HEAR their voice.



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4. Add physical action to your story.





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#### Activity 5 — Developing Internal Monologue (Characters' Thoughts and Feelings)

Go INSIDE one of the characters and tell

her or his thoughts.

Put in some feelings, a memory, or anything

you might have left out of the story. Tell more about the character.



## 6. Put it all together: conclusion



## I think this story taught

| me that. | •• |  |  |  |
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Compiled below are 101 great ideas to get you inspired and working on your next writing project.

www.eswynn.com