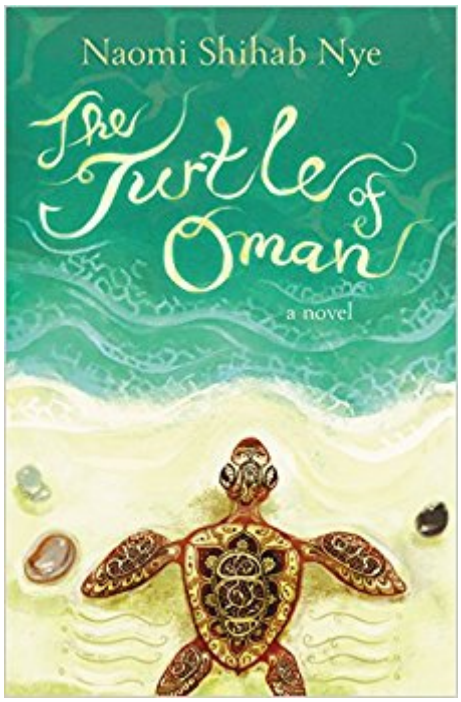
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# The Turtle Of Oman




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## Synopsis

Praised by the Horn Book as Ã¢â ¬Å“both quiet and exhilarating,Ã¢â ¬Â• this novel by the acclaimed poet and National Book Award Finalist Naomi Shihab Nye follows Aref Al-Amri as he says goodbye to everything and everyone he loves in his hometown of Muscat, Oman, as his family prepares to move to Ann Arbor, Michigan. This book was awarded a 2015 Middle East Book Award, was named a Notable Book by the American Library Association, and includes extra material by the author.Aref does not want to leave Oman. He does not want to leave his elementary school, his friends, or his beloved grandfather, Sidi. He does not want to live in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where his parents will go to graduate school. His mother is desperate for him to pack his suitcaseÃ¢â ¬â •but he refuses. Finally, she calls Sidi for help. But rather than pack, Aref and Sidi go on a series of adventures. They visit the camp of a thousand stars deep in the desert, they sleep on SidiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s roof, they fish in the Gulf of Oman and dream about going to India, they travel to the nature reserve to watch the sea turtles. At each stop, Sidi finds a small stone that he later slips into ArefÃ¢â ¬â„¢s suitcaseÃ¢â ¬â •mementos of home.This accessible, exquisite novel shines with gentle humor and explores themes of moving, family, nature, and immigration. Naomi Shihab Nye has created what Kirkus called Ã¢â ¬Å“a warm and humorous peek at the profound and mundane details of moving from one country to anotherÃ¢â ¬â •a perfect pick for kids on the move.Ã¢â ¬Â• Features black-and-white spot art and decorations by Betsy Peterschmidt.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; Reprint edition (May 3, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062019783

ISBN-13: 978-0062019783

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #255,533 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #439 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #603 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 3Ã¢â ¬â œ6Ã¢â ¬â •In the last week before his family leaves Oman for a three-year stint in Michigan, Aref has a hard time saying good-bye to his beloved home, particularly his grandfather, Sidi. Readers are never told Aref’s exact age; he is clearly articulate, yet excerpts from his notebook show his writing has not transitioned to cursive. Friends come to say goodbye; the suitcase must be packed; and Sidi takes Aref for an overnight camping trip, fishing on the Indian Ocean and memorably, to visit a nesting ground for many kinds of turtles. The language is fresh and lyrical at times, with vivid descriptions of daily life and Aref’s obvious anxiety about leaving. Not much happens in the way of plot, but the excellence of the portrayal of the setting and the emotional state of a young boy subject to the loving whims of his parents are vividly captured. "When you drove out in the country, you felt closer to the earth than you felt in the city. You had better thoughts in the country. Your thoughts made falcon moves, dipping and rippling, swooping back into your brain to land." The omniscient narration thus brings a larger context than Aref alone could share. Simply told, yet richly rewarding.Ã¢â ¬â •Carol A. Edwards, Denver Public Library, CO --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Ã¢â ¬Å“NyeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story about the special bond between a boy and his grandfather and their mutual love for their country is somehow both quiet and exhilarating.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Horn Book (starred review))Ã¢â ¬Å“A warm and humorous peek at the profound and mundane details of moving from one country to anotherÃ¢â ¬â •a perfect pick for kids on the move.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))Ã¢â ¬Å“Magical . . .Will deeply touch young readers who have also moved between countriesÃ¢â ¬â •and it will enlighten their new friends.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Booklist)Ã¢â ¬Å“NyeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s elegant but accessible taleÃ¢â ¬â •a love letter to Oman, a touching portrayal of a boy and his grandfather, and a poignant look at how we experience changeÃ¢â ¬â •is deeply moving.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Bulletin of the Center for ChildrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Books)

Purchased for my 10 year old Daughter Battle of the books - 4th grade. It was not one of the kids favorite books.

good

Nice little story from a great poet/author about a boy from a culture not always understood in the States. Since I grew up in Ann Arbor, I wish the story would have described his new home.

In a world where immigrants are viewed with such suspicion and animosity, we need more quiet, touching tales like this one.

Love Naomi. She is not only a brilliant writer but has a wise soul to match.

Fun to read with my son, since we used to live in Oman, and we're in the process of moving so he can relate.

Surprisingly touching.As you read the story and learn to love all the protagonist does, you slip into what is comfortable for him. It becomes comfortable for you. Then, shock, startle, boom, the story is over and you realize that the young boy grew while you were learning to love his childhood.

An okay book, not what I expected -- am going to give it away. Seems like a childs book, not sure if that's what it is or not. If so then I probably misunderstood.

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