



[A Map for Falasteen](#) by Maysa Odeh; illustrated by Aliaa Betawi

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2024

ISBN: 9781250896704 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 4-8 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A young Palestinian girl living in diaspora struggles to find her homeland on a map in this gentle and heartfelt picture book.

At school, Falasteen and her classmates are tasked with finding their families' home countries on a map, but no matter how hard she looks, Falasteen can't find Palestine.

Can a place exist if it's not on a map? Confused, Falasteen turns to her family for answers. Her grandfather, grandmother, and Mama encourage her to see their homeland from a different perspective, and each of their stories helps her understand her people's history and her own place in the world.

Filled with beautiful, inspiring illustrations and thoughtful back matter that outlines key terms and historical moments, this is a story of family, resilience and home always being where the heart is.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "[A Map for Falasteen] fills a gap in representations of the Palestinian diaspora, offering a much-needed insider's perspective. . . . A haunting, powerful, and crucial tale of culture and identity." —[Kirkus](#), **starred review**

★ "While Falasteen learns of the destruction of Palestine, she also learns that she can turn to people and experiences to find the country itself. . . . With descriptive text and beautiful illustrations, this timely book is heavy with sadness yet buoyed by hope. A powerful read-aloud that will invite important discussions." —[Booklist](#), **starred review**

★ "Betawi renders Falasteen's immediate surroundings in yellows and oranges that give way to deep-blue remembrances, while Odeh sensitively narrates this double debut about a family's culture and homeland." —[Publishers Weekly](#), **starred review**

"There is an aching thrum of grief that moves through this thoughtfully nuanced picture book, and . . . the tone capably balances that sense of melancholy with quiet, celebratory notes, underscoring the book's main message that culture is lovingly grown by people." —BCCB

Updated 8.4.25

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“A stunning, heartbreaking, story that was well-performed by the voice actor on the audiobook. Every line seemed to tug my heartstrings, and yet this story felt grounded. Beautiful.” –[The Southern Bookseller Review](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- One of [Kirkus'](#) 150 Most Anticipated Books of Fall 2024
- One of [Publishers Weekly's](#) New and Notable Children's Books
- A Jane Addams Children's Book Award Honoree
- A California Book Awards Gold Medal Winner
- 2025 Kansas NEA Reading Circle Recommended Titles Primary List

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Interview with Maysa Odeh](#)
- [Crafty Moms Share Round-Up](#)
- [Pragmatic Mom Feature](#)
- [School & Library Journal Round-Up](#)
- [Kirkus Reviews Round-Up](#)
- [Publishers Weekly Round-Up](#)
- [Kids Book A Day Feature](#)
- [Interview with Maysa Odeh](#)

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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