

An illustration of a library with bookshelves and a glowing open book. The background is dark with glowing lights and bookshelves. In the foreground, there are stylized cartoon characters: a man on the left, a woman with glasses in the center, and a boy on the right. A large, glowing open book is positioned in the upper left corner.

# THE MAGICAL BOOKSHELF

**Written By: Rayan Badr**

Illustrated By: Omar Badr, Rayan Badr, & Ruba Baalbaki



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EDU 218 - Children's Literature | 2023  
Age Group: 7 to 9 Years Old

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT  
الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت

Kareem, Raneem, Reem, Saleem, and Waseem were remarkable students who had a passion for conducting scientific experiments and exploring the complex concepts and principles of various scientific disciplines.

Their only flaw was their lack of motivation when it comes to reading and literature. They found it very boring and would rather do something more exciting with their time. Their teacher, Ms. Sabah, recognized the potential of her students and wanted to help them become interested in reading. She decided to take the classroom on a field trip to the local library, hoping that these five students would discover something that would ignite their interests.





As they walked into the “Baakleen National Library”, Kareem, Raneem, Reem, Saleem, and Waseem were unimpressed. The library was a dimly lit, musty space with creaking wooden doors and rows upon rows of dusty bookshelves. The air was thick with the smell of old paper and ink, making the five students rethink.



The librarian, Mrs. Fairouz, greeted them at the door and tried to show them around, but they were too busy with their devices to pay attention.

Mrs. Fairouz grew frustrated with their lack of interest and decided to take away their devices. The five students were outraged and felt like they were being punished for no reason.





As they sat there, bored and restless, Kareem, Raneem, Reem, Saleem, and Waseem received secret letters inviting them to a special magical room. The letters were written in delicate calligraphy, with ink that shimmered in the dim light. The paper felt soft and velvety to the touch, and the students couldn't help but feel a sense of excitement as they read the message.

As the doors opened, they entered the room, stunned by the sheer beauty of the library. The walls were adorned with ancient artifacts, paintings, and manuscripts. A faint aroma of books, parchment, and incense filled the air.

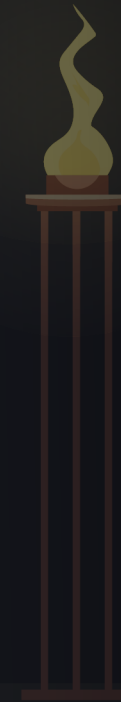
# BAM!!

The door behind slammed shut!





On the shelf, a book began to shiver,  
spark, and shake!  
As Saleem's eyes fell upon the book, he  
tried to reach it out with his fingers, when  
suddenly, with an unexpected twist of fate,  
the book slipped from the shelf BOOM!  
tumbling towards the floor with a  
resounding thud.





As the five kids gathered around the book, their eyes filled with wonder and curiosity, a beam of light radiated from its pages, illuminating the room with a magical aura. As the light grew brighter, the walls of the room seemed to disappear, replaced by a vivid display of images and sounds. The students were transported to a world of discovery, where they could almost feel the electricity crackling in the air.





The book opened, a dazzling light shone upon the page, and a portrait of Hoda Zoghbi materialized on the wall. Her groundbreaking discovery of Rett syndrome left the world awestruck, and her unwavering commitment to scientific excellence earned her numerous awards and accolades.

Kareem, Raneem, Reem, Saleem, and Waseem were spellbound, eager to delve deeper into her passion for the intricate workings of the brain, and her pioneering research on the genetic basis of neurological disorders.

Suddenly, a burst of glittering sparks illuminated as the book flipped its pages and landed on a portrait of Nadim Kobeissi. His revolutionary creation, Cryptocat, was hailed as a marvel of encryption technology, providing unparalleled privacy and security to those in need. His innovative approach to computer science made him a respected figure in the industry, and his work helped advance the field beyond measure. The students gazed in wonder at the man who seemed to have harnessed the power of magic to create such wonders.





The students were mesmerized by the inventions when suddenly, with a flick of its pages, a burst of glittering stars shone down as the book revealed the image of Nabil El-Hage. A master of electromagnetic theory, El-Hage's contributions to fields such as microwave and millimeter-wave circuits, antennas, and systems were nothing short of remarkable. His work has earned him prestigious awards and recognition, and the students were in awe of the man who seemed to hold the secrets of the universe, unlocking the mysteries of science through his pioneering research.

As the students eagerly anticipated the arrival of the fourth inventor,

# BOOM!

the book suddenly shut with a resounding thud. Startled by the abrupt noise, the students looked at the cover of the book and were surprised to see the title: *Inventions in Beirut: Lebanese Scientists You Should Know About*.

They were amazed that they had stumbled upon such an important resource and couldn't wait to explore further.

Then, a mystical voice echoed through the library, proclaiming "Congratulations, you have discovered the inventions of some Lebanese scientists. May you continue to learn and explore the wonders of the world."

The students were awestruck by the experience and felt a sense of excitement at the prospect of learning about other brilliant Lebanese scientists who had made significant contributions to the world.





The students left the magical room feeling disappointed to have to depart so soon, as they had only just begun to scratch the surface of the fascinating world of inventions and science. They realized that books could hold amazing stories of incredible contributions made by people from different cultures and backgrounds, and they were eager to continue their journey of discovery. The experience opened their minds to the limitless possibilities of knowledge and the wonders that could be unlocked through the simple act of reading.

As the field trip came to an end, Kareem, Raneem, Reem, Saleem, and Waseem were given back their devices. However, they found themselves bored with the digital world that they had once been so invested in. They couldn't wait to come back to the library and continue their adventures in new worlds.





In the weeks that followed their field trip to the Baakleen National Library, Ms. Sabah was pleasantly surprised to find Kareem, Raneem, Reem, Saleem, and Waseem eagerly raising their hands during read-aloud time. They had been inspired by their trip to the library and started immersing themselves in the magical world of books and exploring new worlds, art, poetry and ideas.





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