

Somali Language and Literacy

Articles and Books

Somali Bilingual Book Project, Minnesota Humanities Center, Saint Paul, MN.

<http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Resources/books.htm#somali>

The Minnesota Humanities Center's [Somali Bilingual Book Project](http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Resources/books.htm#somali) includes the publication of four Somali folktales never before published as individual, illustrated children's books. Each book, featuring original artwork, is 32 pages in length and is available in both hard and softcover. An audio CD of all four stories in both languages and support materials for classroom use are also available. Titles include: *The Lion's Share/Qayb Libaax*, *Dhegdheer*, *Wiil Waal*, and coming in summer 2008: *The Travels of Igal Shidad*.

Accommodating and Educating Somali Students in Minnesota Schools: A Handbook for Teachers and Administrators, Mohamed Farid, Hamline University Press, 2004. Contact: Mohamed Farid, (763) 574-7352, mfarid@mpls.k12.mn.us

Bilingual Children's Book List, compiled by the Minnesota Humanities Center

<http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Bilingual/somalipicturebooks.pdf>

This is a list of currently available Somali-English children's books. Most titles listed are translations of existing English language titles. For information on ordering books see the lists of publishers/catalogs below.

Folktales from Somalia/Sheekoxariirooyin Soomaaliyeed, Collected and translated by Ahmed Artan Hanghe. Somali Academy of Sciences and Arts in cooperation with the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, Sweden. 1988.

A Gift for Sadia, Marie Fritz Perry, Buttonweed Press, Northfield, MN, 2004. Contact: Marie Fritz Perry, (507) 664-0670, perry775@msn.com or info@buttonweedpress.com

A Somali Alphabet, The Maine Humanities Council,
<http://www.mainehumanities.org/index.html> Contact: info@mainehumanities.org, 674
Brighton Avenue, Portland, ME 04102, Toll Free Number: 1-866-637-3233

A Song for Carrying Water and other stories from Somalia. Manchester, England: Gatehouse Books, 1997. Stories told by Somali adult education students in Manchester.

Bright Star, Blue Sky / Xidig Bidhaanta, Cir Buluug Ah, Marian A. Hassan, 2002
Contact: Marian Hassan: (651) 214-2603 or mhassan1@yahoo.com

"Helloy" Modern Poetry and Songs of Somali, John William Johnson. Haan Publishing, London, 1996.

To Know Something for Sure, One Would Even Part with a She-Camel, Somali Proverbs. G.L. Kapchits. Moscow, Russia: The Way, 2002.

Literature of Somali Onomastics & Proverbs, Anwar Maxamed Diiriye, Gobaad Communications & Press, Minneapolis, MN 2006. Contact: Anwar Maxamed Diiriye, (612) 275-5587, Gobaadpress@gmail.com

The Night You Were Born, Cherished One. African Women's Literacy Project. Portland Adult Education, 2001. A collection of personal and traditional stories from Somali women in adult education classes.

Picture Dictionary Somali-English, Translation Services, Saint Paul Public Schools, St. Paul, MN St. Paul Public Schools, English Language Learner Programs,
http://www.translationservices.spps.org/DICTIONARIES_AND_PRODUCTS.html

A Soothsayer Tested / Faaliyihii la bilkeyday, Georgi Kapchits, Moscow, Russia: The Way, 2006.

A Tree for Poverty. Margaret Laurence. Toronto, Canada: ECW Press, 1970 (original pub 1954) Collection of translations of Somali poems and stories based on Laurence's in-depth investigation of the oral tradition of Somali literature.

Women's Voices in a Man's World – Women and the Pastoral Tradition in Northern Somali Orature, c. 1899-1980. Lidwien Kapteijns. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1999.

Publishers/Catalogs

Afgarad Online Bookshop, <http://www.afgarad.com>
Contact: info@afgarad.com, PMB # 115, 716 County Road 10 NE, Blaine, MN 55434, USA

Culture for Kids catalog, <http://www.cultureforkids.com>

Mantra Publishing, <http://www.mantralingua.com>

Milet Publishing, <http://www.milet.com>

Minnesota Humanities Center, Somali Bilingual Book Project
<http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Bilingual/somalifacts.htm>

Mirage Children's Theatre Company, www.miragetheatre.co.uk
Audio cassettes of stories in a variety of languages including Somali.

Multicultural Books and Videos, <http://www.multiculturalbooksandvideos.com>

Peppercorn Books and Press, <http://www.peppercornbooks.com/catalog/>

Scansom Publishers, <http://www.scansom.com>, or send an email to Mohammed Hassan, scansom@hotmail.com

Video/DVDs

Family Literacy Kits, Judith Schlect, (651) 793-7340

The kits contain bilingual books, information on reading to children, and videos and CDs for sharing books. They promote reading at home and target families with children ages three to five. Kits are available in Somali.

Welcome to Your Library – Ku Soo Dhawoow Maktabadaada, 2005, produced by Rochester Public Library, Minneapolis Public Library and Owatonna Public Library. Available both in VHS and CD formats, this resource shows how to use the public library. Contact your public library for more information.

Online resources/web sites

<http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/somindex.html#>

Beginning English for Somali Speakers with Selected Vocabulary by M. Ansell

This online book was written for the benefit of Somali speakers who are learning English. The first half of each chapter is written in English, and the second half presents the same material in the Somali language.

<http://education.umn.edu/ceed/publications>

Questions About Kids, Center for Early Education and Development), College of Education and Human Development, UMN, 215 Pattee Hall, 150 Pillsbury Dr. SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, (612) 625-2898.

This flyer provides answers to important questions parents have about their child's development. Available in multiple languages including English and Somali.

http://www.readingrockets.org/pdf/family_guide_somali.pdf

Reading Rockets Bilingual Family Guide

This guide is available in Somali and includes tips for helping children get the most out of reading, pointers on working with schools and teachers, ideas for using the public library, valuable Web site addresses, and more.

<http://www3.mpls.k12.mn.us/schools/elementary/lyndale/somali/tocword.html>

Somali Folktales Project – Sheekooyin Curruread, Minneapolis Public Schools, Lyndale School S.P.I.R.A.L. Project. This site has 19 Somali folktales that can be downloaded and used for free. An English version of the story and is followed by a Somali version. ESL activities for each story are also included.

<http://somalism.com/dictionary.html>

Somali-English, English-Somali dictionaries that can be searched online free of charge.

<http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Literacy/tips.htm>

Tips for Reading with Your Children: Somali-English, Minnesota Humanities Center.

Eight basic tips for parents about the importance of reading aloud. It is free and available in multiple languages including English and Somali.

http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~dmasny/english/writings/somali_children.pdf

Weaving Multiple Literacies: Somali Children and Their Teachers in the Context of School. Culture Language, Culture and Curriculum, 1999, 12, 1, 72-93.

This ethnographic case study examines the relationship between literacy, schools, and community cultures by exploring literacy events as they unfold for Somali children in an elementary school.