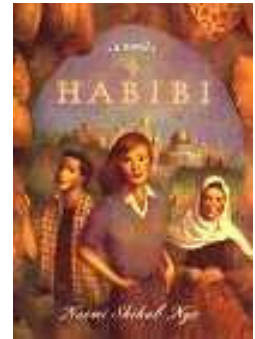


COURSE TITLE: CP Literary Experience (Grade 9)

CHOICE TEXT: *Habibi*

AUTHOR: Naomi Shihab Nye

GENRE: Multi-Cultural – Coming of Age



SUMMARY: An important first novel from a distinguished anthologist and poet. When Liyana's doctor father, a native Palestinian, decides to move his contemporary Arab-American family back to Jerusalem from St. Louis, 14-year-old Liyana is unenthusiastic. Arriving in Jerusalem, the girl and her family are gathered in by their colorful, warmhearted Palestinian relatives and immersed in a culture where only tourists wear shorts and there is a prohibition against boy/girl relationships. When Liyana falls in love with Omer, a Jewish boy, she challenges family, culture, and tradition, but her homesickness fades. Constantly lurking in the background of the novel is violence between Palestinian and Jew . . . Nye introduces readers to unforgettable characters. The setting is both sensory and tangible: from the grandmother's village to a Bedouin camp. Above all, there is Jerusalem itself, where ancient tensions seep out of cracks and Liyana explores the streets practicing her Arabic vocabulary. Though the story begins at a leisurely pace, readers will be engaged by the characters, the romance, and the foreshadowed danger. Poetically imaged and leavened with humor, the story renders layered and complex history understandable through character and incident (Editorial Review from Amazon.com).

REQUIRED STUDENT RESPONSE (DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL):

Identify elements of characterization, plot, and ethical values in the novel. (See link for Ridge Code of Ethics). As you read, you should take notes or annotate (see Annotate link):

- in a notebook
- using post-its
- in the margins (if you own the book)