**Dr. Hanan Mousa**

**Book Proposal: *Palestinian Memory and Identity in Contemporary Children’s Literature***

First of all, thank you for letting me look at your proposal and congratulations on putting it forward! It is very clearly an exciting and fresh area to examine in detail, so there is no doubt that the proposed book can address a significant “gap in the market,” given that little to no attention has been paid to the relationship between Palestinian folklore and modern children’s literature, as you note.

I will start by apologizing for the great number of changes I have suggested but I do think they are key to your proposal being accepted. The points made below are not to suggest that you do not have clear ideas on many of these issues, but that we need to present them to the publisher more clearly and unambiguously. Above all, the publisher must have a very clear sense of what is new in your book and how it contributes to the field. There’s no doubt that if we address some of these points this will become very clear!

The suggested edits and the comments, taken together, aim to:

* Address relevant reader review feedback, particularly from RR1 and RR2, who provide the most detail and constructive suggestions;
* Introduce the new material supplied into the proposal at the appropriate points;
* Make the English a little more punchy, economical, and idiomatic in places.

The key points, as partly indicated in the reader reviews, that appear to need presenting in greater clarity to convince the publisher are:

* Your initial aims, hypotheses, key research questions, and what is new about them.
* Your definition of terms like popular culture, folklore, identity, nationalism, national renewal, and so on.
* Your theoretical approach and how it aligns with or departs from existing critical literature.
* Which theories you have examined and which can be applied to this area in more detail and what you understand/mean by approaches like narratology and terms like intertextuality.
* An at least schematic picture of the sociological and logical relationships between folklore and tradition, modern children’s literature, and Palestinian national identity: Which causes which to change and in what way? Why has drawing on folklore been appealing in relation to the particular communities and periods you discuss? What is the difference between popular culture and traditional folklore and how has it evolved?
* The relationship between social-political factors and cultural developments in this particular area.
* How have the distinct experiences of Palestinians (a) in Israel (b) in the West Bank (c) in Gaza (d) in the wider diaspora affected the children’s literature field and writers’ approach to folklore within it.
* Your line of argument, at least in outline, and what is distinctive, new about it.
* How you approach a review of existing literature; for example, is it a general survey or are your selective in the critical works with which you engage?
* A wider review of the existing literature that, importantly, takes in more recent scholarly work in this area — like Warner (2011, 2014), Pinsent (2016) and Stephens et al. (2017) for example, as RR1 suggests, or other works you think more appropriate — and which also looks at Arabic-language critical sources and other non-Western sources (to the extent that they exist).
* The approach you are taking to close textual analysis to provide supporting evidence for your points.
* Why examining popular proverbs and popular song are relevant to a discussion of Palestinian children’s literature.

I have tried, therefore, to weave in the new material you provided as well as addressing these points while making the proposal still direct and as concentrated as possible. I hope it is clear throughout but if it is not, please don’t hesitate to raise anything you like. Finally, I wish you the very best with this proposal. Your book is definitely one that needs to be issued and by a distinguished publisher like Routledge!