



The Jerusalemite Researcher and Writer Mahmoud Shuqair

By Azeez Al-`Asa

Editorial Secretary of Al-Maqdisiyah Journal
Member of the Jerusalem Institute for Studies and Research,
Al-Quds University

1- Birth and Upbringing

The writer, politician, and thinker Mahmoud Shuqair was born in Jabal al-Mukaber, Jerusalem, in 1941. It was here, in Jabal al-Mukaber, that he grew up, spending his childhood playing football—sometimes with a seven-layered skin ball, other times with a simple strip ball, and occasionally with a proper soccer ball. Shuqair also enjoyed the traditional game of jalul (marbles), where children competed to win each other's marbles. Another favorite was the game of bulbul, which involved spinning a small wooden top with a metal point. Tied with a hemp string to the child's little finger, the top was thrown into a circle, and the goal was to knock the opponent's bulbul out of the circle, leaving them among the losers.

2. Education

2.1 Schooling

Shuqair began his education at al-Sawahra al-Gharbia Elementary School in the villages surrounding Jerusalem, where he studied until the sixth grade. In first grade, he started writing with his left hand, which displeased his strict grandfather. Determined to make him write with his right hand, the grandfather tied the left sleeve of Shuqair's shirt with a strong hemp thread, forcing the boy to use his right hand. Yet Shuqair resisted, stubbornly untying the thread with his teeth or with the help of his sister or friends. Despite these efforts, Shuqair remained left-handed and continues to write with his left hand to this day (Shuqair, 2018a, p. 2).

Shuqair continued his education at al-Rashidiya School in Jerusalem for both his preparatory and secondary stages, graduating with a high school diploma (matriculation) in 1959.

2.2 University Education

After completing high school, Shuqair enrolled at Damascus University in 1961. He graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Sociology, after which he pursued a career in teaching, a profession he held until 1985.

3. Mahmoud Shuqair as a Writer and Author

The personal experiences of Mahmoud Shuqair during his childhood and youth, as described earlier, coupled with his secondary and university education, profoundly shaped his intellectual and literary development. His specialization in philosophy and sociology left an indelible mark on his evolving worldview, refining the contours of his philosophical and literary persona. These influences helped shape Shuqair's distinctive voice, merging the nuances of urban and Bedouin life in their most vivid forms. In the following sections, we will trace his growth as a writer, examining the vast body of work he produced. His contributions have left a remarkable legacy for future generations, providing a treasure trove of thought and knowledge enriched by his unmistakable Jerusalemite touch.

3.1 Mahmoud Shuqair as a Writer

Shuqair began his literary career in 1962, publishing short stories in the Jerusalemite magazine *al-Ufuq al-Jadeed*. Between 1965 and 1967, he served as the cultural affairs editor for the Jerusalem newspaper *al-Jihad*, contributing articles under his own name and various pseudonyms. From 1978 to 1980, he worked as the editor for occupied territories affairs in the Jordanian newspaper *al-Rai*, and later, between 1991 and 1993, he wrote a weekly column.

Over the years, Shuqair contributed numerous stories, literary works, and political articles to Palestinian, Jordanian, and Arab newspapers and magazines, including: *al-Jihad*, *al-Ittihad*, *al-Rai*, *al-Dustour*, *al-Akhbar*, *al-Shaab*, *al-Sijil*, *al-Tali'a*, *al-Hayat al-Jadida*, *al-Ayyam*, *al-Quds*, *al-Hayat al-Londoniya*, and *al-Nahar al-Londoniya*. His work also appeared in prominent magazines such as: *al-Jadeed*, *Sawt al-Watan*, *al-Karmel*, *Showoon Philastinya* (Palestinian Affairs), *Philasteen al-Thawra* (Palestine Revolution), *al-Hurriya* (Freedom), *al-Afkar* (Ideas), *Amman*, *Samer*, *Osama*, *al-Marifa* (Knowledge), *al-Adaab* (Literature), *al-Tareeq* (the road), *Majed*, *al-Zizafouna*, *al-thaqafa al-Arabya* (Arab Culture), *Al-Arabi*, *Masharif*, *al-Zawiya* (the corner), *Dafatir Thaqafya* (Cultural Notebooks), *Lotus*, *Banipal*, *Chicago* and *London* magazine.

3.2 Mahmoud Shuqair as an Author

Anyone writing about Mahmoud Shuqair must pause to consider the expansive body of work this Jerusalemite author has created. Over six decades, from 1962 until today (2024), Shuqair has crafted a vast and evolving literary landscape with remarkable consistency. His prolific output spans a wide range of genres, offering a rich literary legacy for future generations.

Let us follow the trajectory of his impressive literary career, beginning with his works from the 20th century.

3.2.1 Twentieth Century Works

The political and social upheavals that followed the full occupation of Palestine in 1967 deeply impacted Shuqair's early writing. Despite this instability, he published ten works before the turn of the century, nine of which were collections of short stories. His early works were published in Jerusalem, Amman, Damascus, and Ramallah, with his first collection, *Bread of Others* (1975), leading the way. This was followed by his second collection, *The Palestinian Boy* (1977), and *Rituals for the Unhappy Woman* (1986).¹ During this period, he also produced children's stories such as *The Soldier and the Game* (1986), *The Barrier* (1986), and *The Donkey Song* (1988).

In the 1990s, Shuqair continued to enrich Palestinian literature, publishing *A Rose for the Blood of the Prophets* (1990), *The Silence of the Windows* (1991)², the novel *Mary Said... The Boy Said* (1996), and *The Profession of the Rooster* (1999). His tenth work of the century was a place-based biography, *Another Shadow of the City* (1998), which marked a reflective turn in his writing.

While I was writing about his literary journey, Shuqair unexpectedly surprised me with a precious gift—a collection of ten of his works, including a special edition of *Bread of Others* and *Other Stories*, carrying the rich essence of his early writing. This edition was not just any copy; it bore a heartfelt dedication to «Abu Fadi,» a phrase laden with personal significance: «Dear Abu Fadi,³ this

1 - This collection of short stories was republished in "Completed Literary Works" (Shuqair, 2022a, pp. -11 47).

2 - This collection of short stories was republished in "Completed Literary Works" (Shuqair, 2022a, pp. -49 84).

3 - The author of this study is intended.

is my first book, with appreciation.» This particular edition was published by the Dar al-Thaqafa al-Gadedda (New Culture House) in Cairo in 1990 and was the eleventh book in a series of Palestinian literature supported by the Palestine Liberation Organization's Department of Culture.

The Palestinian poet and writer Tawfiq Zyad (1929–1994) wrote the introduction to this edition, noting how Shuqair vividly captured life in the Palestinian village before 1967, with its serene landscapes and kind, humble people (Shuqair, 1990b, p. 8). The collection contains 16 stories, including those from his second collection, *The Palestinian Boy*. It opens with *The People of the Country*, followed by the title story *Bread of Others*, and concludes with *The Exit*, a piece written in 1969. The stories of *The Palestinian Boy* were penned between 1975 and 1977 (Shuqair, 1990b, p. 122; Shuqair, 2012d, pp. 9–100).

3-2-2 Mahmoud Shuqair: Screenwriter and Playwright

Mahmoud Shuqair's creativity extends beyond stories and novels; he has made a significant mark in writing scripts and dialogue for several television series, including:

1. Abdul Rahman al-Kawakibi (13 episodes, 1980)
2. It Happened in the World (12 episodes, 1981)
3. The Visit (13 episodes, 1984)
4. Ibrahim Touqan (20 episodes, 1985)
5. Paths That Do Not Meet (12 episodes, 1986)
6. Houses in the Wind (13 episodes, 1987)

In addition, he penned several theatrical texts, such as:

1. *The Shipmaster* —three plays for girls and boys (Shuqair, 2003b)
2. *Democracy in Good Health* (1996)
3. *All by the Remote* (1999)
4. *Small Details* (2000)
5. *Jumana and the Children* (2008)

A chronological review of these scripts, dialogues, and texts reveals a decline in Mahmoud Shuqair's literary output during the twentieth century compared to the prolific nature of his work in the twenty-first century. This shift can be attributed to Shuqair dedicating considerable time and effort to television series,

which became a popular medium in the latter part of the twentieth century, particularly in the 1980s. Television served as a platform to address social issues through drama, fostering a joyful, intimate atmosphere where families gathered to discuss and predict the unfolding events of their favorite shows. In this way, Shuqair's contributions fulfilled an educational and guiding purpose, enriching the viewer's experience.

3-2-3 Twenty-First Century Works

The majority of Mahmoud Shuqair's works, approximately 94%, emerged in the twenty-first century, spanning various literary genres.

First: Stories—Collections and Short Fiction

An analysis of the literary genres produced by Shuqair in the twenty-first century reveals that stories hold the largest share. In addition to the nine short story collections he published in the twentieth century, he released 33 books or booklets related to storytelling—ranging from very short stories to full collections—between 2002 and 2023.



Four covers of short story collections by the esteemed writer Mahmoud Shuqair⁴

Among his collections for adults is A Quick Passage, a poignant tribute to his

⁴ <https://alnqsh.com/authors/محمود-شقيير/1092>

sister Amina, who passed away prematurely (Shuqair, 2002a)⁵. Other notable works include *The Image of Shakira* (Shuqair, 2003a), *My Cousin Condoleezza* (Shuqair, 2004d), *Slight Possibilities* (Shuqair, 2006a)⁶, *Jerusalem Alone There* (Shuqair, 2010c)⁷, *The City of Losses and Desire* (Shuqair, 2011b)⁸, *The Ceilings of Desire* (Shuqair, 2017a)⁹, and *Morning Milk* (Shuqair, 2021b)¹⁰.



Mahmoud Shuqair: A Master of Children's Stories

Mahmoud Shuqair's contributions to children's literature are extensive, comprising 23 enchanting tales, including:

- *Birds on the Window* (Shuqair, 2001 a)
- *The Boy Who Breaks the Glass* (Shuqair, 2001b)

5 - This collection of short stories was republished in "Completed Literary Works" (Shuqair, 2022a, pp. -85 132).

6 - This collection of short stories was republished in "Completed Literary Works" (Shuqair, 2022a, pp. -133 200).

7 - This collection of short stories was republished in "Completed Literary Works" (Shuqair, 2022a, pp. -201 296).

8 - This collection of short stories was republished in "Completed Literary Works" (Shuqair, 2022a, pp. -297 380).

9 - This collection of short stories was republished in "Completed Literary Works" (Shuqair, 2022a, pp. -381 452).

10 - This collection of short stories was republished in "Completed Literary Works" (Shuqair, 2022a, pp. 549-453).

- A Cruel Experience (Shuqair, 2001c)
- The Little King (Shuqair, 2004a)
- `Alaa in the Little House (Shuqair, 2004b)
- The Tree Told Us (Shuqair, 2004c)
- A White Dog with a Black Spot (Shuqair, 2008a)
- The Donkey's Journey and Other Stories (Shuqair, 2011a)
- A Girl and Three Boys in the City of the Grandparents (Shuqair, 2012a)
- A Cat at School and Other Stories (Shuqair, 2012b)
- The Children of the Strange Neighborhood (Shuqair, 2012c)
- Me and Fatoum and the Wind and the Clouds (Shuqair, 2013a)
- Maryam and Canaan and Other Stories (Shuqair, 2014a)
- Sanaa's Bird (Shuqair, 2014b)
- Mahdi's Song and Other Stories (Shuqair, 2016a)
- Jumana al-Rummana and Other Stories (Shuqair, 2016b)
- Ajiba (Shuqair, 2018b)
- Laila's Day (Shuqair, 2019a)
- The Island of Speech (Shuqair, 2019b)
- The Love of the Homeland Series (Shuqair, 2020a)
- The Aunt Maryam Series (Shuqair, 2020b)
- The Adventures of Mahdi and Jumana (Shuqair, 2020c)
- The Stork (Shuqair, 2021a)

Shuqair attributes his storytelling orientation to his rural upbringing and his experiences as a teacher in various Palestinian villages. His writing deeply reflects the vibrancy of village life, capturing the rich tapestry of customs, traditions, rituals, folk songs, and heritage, as well as the struggles of poverty, conflict, and complex relationships—both public and private. These themes resonate throughout his stories, starting with his first collection and continuing in subsequent works.

The impressive array of children's stories demonstrates Shuqair's commitment to nurturing Palestinian youth and Arabic-speaking children across the globe. Coupled with his stories for adults, his writings leave a profound «educational» impact on readers. Each tale conveys vital educational concepts, particularly those with a national perspective, highlighting the oppressive practices of

occupation against the Palestinian people. Shuqair instills in his readers a profound love for their homeland and a sense of dedication to its protection. Notably, he dedicates considerable attention to Jerusalem, emphasizing the city's significance in the lives of its people through the lens of his characters.

In 2018, researcher Haya Mohammed al-Zahrawi undertook a master's thesis supervised by Dr. Bassam Qattoos, exploring the aesthetic innovations in Shuqair's short stories. As a pioneer of the very short story form in Palestine, Jordan, and the Arab world, Shuqair's work exemplifies a refreshing departure from traditional narrative structures. He moves away from the conventional framework of a complete plot with a clear beginning, middle, and end, focusing instead on minute details or specific angles. This technique compels readers to chase the unfolding events and crave resolution, thereby creating suspense that enhances the artistry of this genre.

Mahmoud Shuqair has achieved notable acclaim in the realm of short and very short stories, dedicating his craft almost exclusively to this form. His work embodies two core principles: artistry and humanity. Since his second collection, *The Palestinian Boy* (1977), he has innovatively expanded this narrative approach in *Rituals for the Unhappy Woman* (1986) and subsequent collections (al-Zahrawi & Qatous, 2016, pp. Z-H).

Before concluding the discussion of «The Story in Mahmoud Shuqair's Literature,» it is essential to note that he has published selections of short stories in multiple languages. In 2007, Banipal Publishing House in London released a selection in English. Actes Sud published a collection in French in 2008, and Alef Publishing House released a selection in Romanian in 2012. His collection *My Cousin Condoleezza* was published in Italian in 2013 and Persian in 2019, while *Shakira's Image* appeared in Italian in 2014. One of his stories was translated into English and featured in *Kitab Ramallah* by Coma Press in London in 2021. Numerous other translations exist, attesting to Mahmoud Shuqair's significant stature in world literature as a Palestinian short story writer.

The Novel in Mahmoud Shuqair's Literature

In *Me and Writing*, Mahmoud Shuqair reflects on his complex relationship with

the novel. He asserts that, in the aftermath of the Nakba, Palestinian society—whether in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank—lacked the dynamic energy necessary for the emergence of the novel. Additionally, during the 1960s, when he embarked on his writing career, Shuqair felt culturally unprepared to tackle the novel form.

Shuqair notes, “Since I began writing stories in 1962, the desire to write novels has never left me.” This longing manifested in his style of crafting very short stories, which often bore novelistic elements. He seemed to prepare himself for novel writing while simultaneously honing his skills in storytelling. Critics have observed that the chapters and scenes of his first novel, *The Family Horse*, are constructed from narrative units and very short stories that seamlessly integrate into a cohesive narrative.

As Shuqair ventured into novel writing, he produced a significant body of work, demonstrating a robust engagement with the form. His contributions include:

1. *Ten Novels for Various Audiences*: Between 2000 and 2019, Shuqair released ten novels targeting adults, children, and young adults. Among them are seven novels specifically for girls and young men:

- *I and Jumana* (Shuqair, 2000a)
- *A Distant Planet for My Sister the Queen* (Shuqair, 2007a)
- *Dreams of the Thin Boy* (Shuqair, 2010a), which spans 84 pages and consists of 57 stations that collectively shape a narrative. Through the protagonist’s voice, Shuqair aims to cultivate a sense of identity and belonging in young readers.
- Other notable works include *Mary’s Words* (Shuqair, 2013b), *Waiting for the Snow* (Shuqair, 2016c), *My Friend and the Donkey* (Shuqair, 2016d), and *The Rooftop Pigeon* (Shuqair, 2018c).

Additionally, Shuqair published three novels for adults:

- *The Family Horse* (Shuqair, 2013c)
 - *Praise for the Women of the Family* (Shuqair, 2015a)
 - *The Family’s Shadows* (Shuqair, 2019c)
2. *Awards and Recognition*: Shuqair’s novel *Praise for the Women of the Family* (Shuqair, 2015a) was shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction in 2016. In 2017, researcher Ayat Bourini defended a master’s thesis titled “The

Image of Women in the Palestinian Novel,” using Shuqair’s *The Family Horse* and *Praise for the Women of the Family* as primary examples. Bourini’s study highlighted Shuqair’s remarkable ability to portray the realities of women’s status in Palestinian society, particularly within Bedouin communities. The researcher also examined the images of girls in Shuqair’s works aimed at young readers, such as *I and Jumana*, *A Distant Planet for My Sister the Queen*, and *The Story of a Girl and Three Boys in the City of the Grandfathers*, assessing how these depictions resonate with the representations of women in his adult novels (Bourini, 2017, p. 152).

In a separate analysis, Tariq Mustafa Hamida recognized Shuqair’s adeptness in employing his literary and political acumen to enrich the intellectual and social dimensions of his narratives. He commended Shuqair’s architectural skill in planning and executing his novels (Hamid, 2015, p. 267). Notably, in 2018, *Me, My Friend*, and *the Donkey* made the honor list among the hundred best books for young readers worldwide, as recognized by the International Board on Books for Young People.

Through these works, Mahmoud Shuqair has made significant strides in enriching Palestinian literature, particularly through his innovative approaches to storytelling



The Palestinian Ministry of Culture honored Mahmoud Shuqair at the First Palestine Forum for the Arabic Novel held in Ramallah in 2017. The following

year, he served as a member of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction jury, known as the Booker Prize for 2018. In addition to his acclaimed short stories and novels, Shuqair also wrote the tale, with *The Woodcutter* emerging as a popular tale published in 2004.

Biography in Mahmoud Shuqair's Literature

Mahmoud Shuqair has published several autobiographical and non-autobiographical works, often focusing on the biography of places. Alongside his earlier mentioned book, *Another Shadow of the City*, he has authored the following biographical titles:

- *Jerusalem, My First City: A Biography for Girls and Boys* (Shuqair, 2014c)
- *Ramallah, the One There: A Biography for Girls and Boys* (Shuqair, 2016h)
- *Me and Writing: From the ABCs of Language to the Sea of Words - A Literary Biography* (Shuqair, 2018a)
- *A House of Colors, Ismail and Tamam: A Novelistic Biography* (Shuqair, 2022b)
- *Ghassan Kanafani... Forever: A Biography* (Shuqair, 2022c)



The cover of “Ghassan Kanafani Forever” rests gracefully between the two biographies authored by Mahmoud Shuqair.

In “Those Times”, the second part of his autobiography—preceded by “Those Places”—Mahmoud Shuqair reveals two significant truths. First, he reflects on the fortune of his childhood, where tales of the wilderness and village rituals left a lasting imprint on his consciousness, some of which would later find their way into his stories. Second, he recounts his experience of the Nakba, frequently hearing the whir of bullets and the detonation of bombs echoing over Jerusalem and other regions, both day and night (Shaqir 2022d, pp. 12-15).

Shuqair’s literary oeuvre also encompasses titles that delve into the themes of homeland and society, addressing various concerns and issues, particularly those related to Jerusalem—a topic that will receive dedicated attention in this article. His writings capture keen observations, while simultaneously nurturing a spirit of love for the time and places of Palestine. This is particularly poignant in the face of an occupation intent on erasing the land, the identity, and the civilization that have flourished for millennia, along with the collective and individual memories tied to them.

In his exploration of this conflict, Shuqair has produced a suite of works that resonate deeply with the aforementioned biography. Notable among these are *Charming Cities and Reckless Air: Travels* (Shuqair 2005a), *Mirrors of Absence: Prose Texts* (Shuqair 2007b), *Jerusalem Told Us* (Shuqair 2010b), *Jerusalem Alone There* (Shuqair 2010c), *City of Losses and Desire* (Shuqair 2011b), *Praise for Mirrors of the Country* (Shuqair 2012e), *Those Distant Cities: Travels for Girls and Boys* (Shuqair 2012e), and *Moons of Jerusalem: Six Books for Children Ages 3 to 8* (Shuqair 2018d).

Shuqair’s creativity shines through in the introduction he crafted for Palestinian poet Fadwa Touqan, a piece imbued with love and respect that forges a deep connection between generations in “Fadwa Touqan... The Most Splendid Journey” (Shuqair 2018). Additionally, he collaborates with Shiraz Anab in the beautifully crafted work “Another Time for Joy” (Shuqair and Anab 2020).

Through these biographical publications and travel narratives, Shuqair demonstrates a profound commitment to the genre of biography, extending his focus to both people and places. His writing intricately weaves together the threads of autobiography, biography, and the essence of places, fostering an intimate bond that withstands the passage of time and distance. In his work,

Shuqair deftly articulates the unique relationship between the Palestinian people and their homeland, asserting that their land, city, and village are integral to their identity—so much so that they are regarded as sacred extensions of the self. He expresses this sentiment when reflecting on his connection to writing: «I will talk about places and architecture, about people and daily life in the city, about culture, customs, and traditions, about the ruralization of the city and its return to the past.»

Fourth: Mahmoud Shuqair and Palestinian Culture

Mahmoud Shuqair's creative endeavors extend beyond various literary genres; he has also contributed articles and short stories to numerous Palestinian, Jordanian, Arab, and international magazines and newspapers. His work has appeared in publications such as *Al-Jadeed*, *Sawt al-Watan*, *Al-Karmel*, *Showoon Philastinya* (Palestinian Affairs), *Philasteen al-Thawra* (Palestine Revolution), *al-Hurriya* (Freedom), *al-Afkar* (Ideas), *Amman*, *Samer*, *Osama*, *al-Marifa* (Knowledge), *al-Adaab* (Literature), *al-Tareeq* (the road), *Majed*, *al-Zizafouna*, *al-thaqafa al-Arabya* (Arab Culture), *Al-Arabi*, *Masharif*, *al-Zawiya* (the corner), *Dafatir Thaqafya* (Cultural Notebooks), *Lotus*, *Banipal*, *Chicago* and *London* magazine.

From 1997 to 2000, he served as the general supervisor of *Dafatir Thaqafya*, published by the Palestinian Ministry of Culture, and later as the editor for cultural affairs in *Sawt al- Watan* magazine from 1997 to 2002.

Interestingly, an archive reveals 41 articles authored by Shuqair, commencing with «Discussions: Stories of the Last Issue,» published in *Literature Magazine*, Issue 9, in September 1963. This suggests he began writing while in his first year of university. The archive concludes with his contribution of a short story titled «On the Sidewalk Near the City Wall» in *al-Faisal Magazine*, Issues 483-484, dated January 1, 2017.¹¹

Shuqair has also engaged extensively in scholarly writing, focusing on Palestinian culture. In 2010, he published *Reading One Hundred Palestinian*

11 - Al-Sharekh Archive for Arabic Literary and Cultural Magazines. See the following link (accessed 2024/01/10): <https://archive.alsharekh.org/AuthorArticles/12068>

Books (Shuqair 2010d). In 2016, he contributed a cultural paper to the Palestine Liberation Organization Research Center titled “Jerusalem: Reality and Challenges” (Shuqair 2016f). The following year, he released a study entitled “On Some Manifestations of Palestinian Culture,” which reviews various studies, articles, and testimonies related to the subject (Shuqair 2017b). This book explores contemporary Palestinian culture across various fields, including short stories, modern poetry, memoirs, autobiographies, and diaries. It addresses the relationship between intellectuals and society, highlighting their influence on one another, while also discussing literary and cultural themes that accompany the evolution of literature. The book features literary testimonies from notable Palestinian cultural figures, illuminating the achievements of contemporary Palestinian creativity.¹²

In his book *Me and Writing*, Shuqair poses a critical question:

«Isn't it time for us to realize that the marginalization of culture and intellectuals is largely responsible for the prevalence of ignorance, backwardness, and decadence among us, as well as the rise of fanaticism and sectarianism, the collapse of values, and the disintegration of our society's fabric, which continues to suffer under the weight of occupation?»

While we leave this question for contemporary and future readers to ponder, Shuqair underscores the urgency of a response, asserting:

«We must devise effective means to promote a national democratic culture among the people, emphasizing the importance of citizenship, reason, freedom of expression, and pluralism in viewpoints and opinions, while rejecting any tendencies that might lead us into decline, especially when other peoples are striving for new heights on the path to progress and advancement!»

12 - Explore Amazon's presentation of the book at the following link: (viewed on 2024/09/01): https://www.amazon.com/-/zh_TW/محمود-شقيير/dp/3330847492



Cover of the book “On Some Manifestations of Palestinian Culture” by Mahmoud Shuqair

We will limit our exploration of cultural dialogue with Mahmoud Shuqair, as space constrains our discussion. Yet, our need for his insightful opinions and well-grounded thoughts about culture and the role of intellectuals in Palestinian life remains pressing. While the liberation from occupation stands as a vital concern, it is not the sole aspect worthy of attention. We hold a profound hope for the revival of our nation, envisioning its people seizing control of their abundant resources and immense potential to secure their rightful place among the vibrant nations of this world.

Jerusalem in the Writings of Mahmoud Shuqair

Mahmoud Shuqair spent his childhood traversing between his hometown in Jabal al-Mukaber and Jerusalem, the spiritual, economic, cultural, and administrative heart of the surrounding villages. Jerusalem served as the vibrant hub where locals shopped, seeking clothing, medicine, food, and education—everything they desired. It was a city where visitors found solace through prayer and worship, drawing them closer to God, for Jerusalem is regarded as the city of God, the closest place to heaven.

For young Mahmoud, the allure of Jerusalem was more than a playground; it

was a world teeming with life and longing. His first encounter with the city came when he was five, accompanying his father. This initial visit was not merely a moment of joy but a profound imprint on his soul. As he reflects in his book “Those Places”:

«Jerusalem dazzled me when I entered it for the first time with my father. The streets, the multitude of cars, and the throngs of people captivated me. The shops, filled with dolls, toys, food, and clothing, enchanted me and have lingered in my memory ever since.» (Shuqair 2020 D, p. 15).

He continues, “Jerusalem was the first city my eyes beheld, and I could only visit it with my father’s permission. Yet, since that first entry, it has never left my heart.” (Shuqair 2020 D, p. 25). In “Those Times”, he further confides, “If my father hadn’t taken me to Jerusalem at the age of five, my heart would not have known the wonder that still stirs within me. My literary journey began by writing about it, and I continue to do so, compelled to portray its essence and its people—Muslims and Christians alike—defending truth and justice. I strive to honor the authentic Arab Palestinian landscape, which is now being erased and distorted. Jerusalem has shown me the importance of pluralism, tolerance, and the coexistence of diverse beliefs and cultures.” (Shuqair 2022 D, p. 28).

Mahmoud Shuqair’s connection to his city shines through in his writing from the very first word, infused with the essence of Jerusalem and a deep sense of belonging. His exploration of the city encompasses its place, time, culture, and knowledge.

As our research unfolds, we shall delve into the treasures of Mahmoud Shuqair’s literary contributions about Jerusalem. He often refers to it simply as «the city,» a term recognized by the inhabitants of surrounding villages—of which the writer is one. In this context, when someone mentions going to «the city,» it is universally understood to be Jerusalem.

The literary works of Mahmoud Shuqair that are intricately linked to Jerusalem include:

1. Another Shadow of the City: A Biography of the Place (Shuqair 1998).
2. Jerusalem Told Us: A collection of texts, diaries, and testimonies reflecting his experiences and observations of Jerusalem (Shuqair 2010b). This book

dedicates itself to Jerusalem, weaving together aspects of his biography and relationship with the city (Shuqair 2020d).

3. Jerusalem Alone There: A collection of short stories that capture the spirit of the city, published in English (2017) and Swedish (2022) (Shuqair 2010c). Jerusalem forms the core of this collection, manifesting in the majority of its narratives. The stories explore its neighborhoods and essence, including “One Noon, Saturday, Loss, Hanan, Shahnaz, Sultana, Image, Humidity, Love, Janet, the Attarin Market, the Tannery Market, Sunday, the city bells, Khan Tankiz, Pain, the Butchers Market, the King of Peace, Description of the City, Darkness of the Night, One Bullet,” and “Necklace” (Shuqair 2022a, pp. 201-296).

4. The City of Losses and Desire: This collection brims with references to Jerusalem, its neighborhoods, alleys, and markets, featuring stories like “The Christian Quarter, Bread and Wine, Confusion, Waiting, March Rain, Violation, Al-Bustan Neighborhood, In the Forties, Prayer, Puzzle, Feast, Neighing, The Gypsy, A Specter, A Message, Something Missing, A Picture, Peace to Jerusalem, A Proposal, In Front of the Prison, Oriental Clothes, Jerusalem Again, For the First Time in Years,” and “Jerusalem” (Shuqair 2022a, pp. 297-380).

Through these works, Shuqair captures the spirit of Jerusalem, intertwining his identity with the city’s timeless essence.



5) A Girl and Three Boys in the City of the Ancestors; A Story for Girls and

Boys (Shuqair, 2012a).

6) Jerusalem is My First City; A Biography for Girls and Boys (Shuqair, 2014c).

7) Ceilings of Desire (Shuqair, 2017a). Shuqair begins this collection of short stories with a dedication: “To the city that planted in my heart the wonder of Jerusalem.” The stories in this collection radiate the essence of Jerusalem, with pieces like «Naked Leg,» «City Gate,» «Missing,» «Markets,» and «Blacksmiths’ Market» (Shuqair, 2022a, pp. 381-452).

8) Moons of Jerusalem ¹³(Shuqair, 2018d): A series of six books for children aged 3-8 years.

9) Morning Milk (Shuqair, 2021b). Shuqair opens this collection with: “To it again... to Jerusalem and its other sisters.” This anthology gathers stories born from Jerusalem and dedicated to it, including «Mary,» «Jerusalem,» «Raindrops,» «Entry,» «Waiting,» «The City,» «The House,» and more (Shuqair, 2022a, pp. 453-557).

In his literary biography “Me and Writing”, Shuqair underscores the deep bond between his storytelling and Jerusalem, stating:

“Publishing stories had an incredible effect on me, inspiring me to write realistic tales drawn from my relationship with Jerusalem and the Palestinian countryside. In these stories, I spoke of workers and contractors in the city, farmers in the countryside, and gave women and children a prominent place.”

Critic Jameel al-Salhout reflects on “Another Shadow of the City”, seeing it as capturing the daily life and history of Jerusalem as experienced by Shuqair, particularly after his forced exile from 1975-1993. Critics view the book as an intertwining of the writer’s personal biography with that of his beloved city. In “Jerusalem Told Us”, Shuqair continues this intimate connection, creating what critics have described as “a Jerusalemite biography passed down through generations.” His next work, “The City of Losses and Desire”, is praised for its blend of very short stories and a novelistic structure.

Finally, “Jerusalem is My First City” aims to illuminate Jerusalem’s significance for Palestinian children and the broader Arab world. The book addresses the capital’s political, religious, economic, and cultural heritage, highlighting its

13 - The six books are: Mahdi, Jumana and the Rain, The Colorful Butterfly, A Rose for Aunt Maryam, The Call of Dawn, Autumn Birds, and In the Mosque and in the Church.

importance to a generation of Palestinian youth who are unable to enter their holy city, cut off by the occupation's barriers, besieged and isolated from its Palestinian and Arab roots (Al-Salhout, 2014).¹⁴

Fourth: A Candid Conversation with Mahmoud Shuqair

In an effort to offer readers deeper insight into our esteemed guest, the writer and thinker Mahmoud Shuqair, we posed several probing questions. Among the most significant were the following:

First Question: Given that you experienced both the Nakba of 1947-1949 and the Nakba of 2023-2024, do you plan to create a literary work that connects these events?

Answer:

One could argue that all Zionist actions against the Palestinian people, from the first Nakba to today, are a continuation of that original catastrophe. These actions represent ongoing racist, exclusionary, and expansionist attempts to erase Palestinian national identity and displace the Palestinian people from their homeland. This is all part of completing the Nakba and taking control of historic Palestine.

Therefore, everything I've written, and all I am planning to write, reflects an attempt to respond to this continuous aggression against my people, my country, and especially Jerusalem, which is undergoing Judaization.

Regarding the destruction in Gaza and the killings in both the Strip and the West Bank, I need time to craft a literary work that can encompass these tragedies. To do justice to the horror of the present reality, the work must mature. As you know, literature—whether fictional or narrative—requires a period of fermentation to adequately capture the bitterness of the reality we live in.

Second Question: Your deep love for Jerusalem and connection to it are evident in your literary works. How do you believe this has affected the spread of your writings?

Answer:

14 - Al-Salhout, Jameel (2014/04/11). Jerusalem, Mahmoud Shuqair's first city. Diwan Al-Arab website. See the following link (accessed 2024/13/01): <https://diwanalarab.com/القدس-مدينة-الأديب>

When I write about Jerusalem, my driving force is love for the city and my intrinsic bond with it. I do not primarily focus on the reach of my work. However, Jerusalem’s sacredness, its ancient history, and the attachment many people around the world feel toward it naturally draw attention to any book related to it. Of course, this interest must be accompanied by a certain level of artistic quality, maturity, and craftsmanship.

Third Question: Is there any book that you felt you published hastily and now plan to republish?

Answer:

My second book, “The Palestinian Boy”, included stories for children alongside stories for adults. After publication, I regretted this mix and realized I had rushed its release. When the Egyptian critic and thinker Mahmoud Amin al-`Alem suggested that I publish the two collections, *The Bread of Others* and *The Palestinian Boy*, together, I acted quickly and removed the children’s stories from the compilation.

Similarly, my third collection of short stories, *Roses for the Blood of the Prophets*, published by Dar al-Ahali in Damascus, bore a title I later disliked. The title’s poetic nature seemed more suited to a poetry collection rather than short stories. When the second edition was published, I changed the title to *The Silence of the Windows*.

As for my work in television, I regret hastily completing the script and dialogue for the series *The Visit*. I wish I had taken more time with it.

Fourth Question: More than half of your literary output was produced between the ages of 70 and 83. What message would you like to share with readers about this?

Answer:

Several factors contributed to this increase in productivity. First, I left my job and dedicated myself fully to writing. Second, the computer has been an invaluable tool, making writing more efficient. When I used to write by hand, making edits—deletions, additions, revisions—was a laborious process. Now, I draft directly on the computer and make changes effortlessly.

But most importantly, the political and existential challenges we face as

Palestinians have been a driving force. The Israeli occupation, backed by the Zionist American administration, has made our lives—and the lives of our people, who continue to offer martyr after martyr—unstable and constantly threatened. This ongoing struggle is a powerful motivation for me to write. Writing, for me, is a way to defend our homeland, our people, and our national dignity.

The presence of two children's platforms—al-Zayzafoona al-Kabira and al-Zayzafoona al-Saghira—supervised by the late Shareef Samhan, inspired me to contribute from the first issue to the last. Over the span of ten years, this endeavor allowed me to accumulate a wealth of stories, later compiled into books dedicated to young readers.

Question Five: Have you encountered any incidents of scientific plagiarism concerning your writings in various genres or research efforts?

Answer:

Yes, a Lebanese girl once stole my story, *The Little King*, and submitted it to a literary competition, claiming it as her own. The story won the competition and was published in a book under her name. Years later, a Lebanese woman, noticing that I had a story with the same title, asked me about it, uncovering the theft. By then, the girl had grown into a 24-year-old woman, uninterested in writing. When I informed the publisher, he suggested we let the matter rest, and out of compassion for the girl, I agreed.

Conclusion:

Mahmoud Shuqair's vast contributions, spanning a multitude of books, intellectual efforts, and union activities, as well as his presence in the local, Arab, and international media, cannot be fully encapsulated in this brief article. We are honored to introduce him to the Palestinian and Arab readership as one of the most celebrated Palestinian writers, recognized and honored by numerous institutions. His works have been the subject of countless conferences and seminars.

On the global stage, the translation of his literary works into several languages stands as a testament to his international impact. These translations, granted by the countries that read his creativity in their own tongues, position him as an

ambassador of Palestine and Jerusalem, spreading the message of Palestinian resilience and creativity in the face of occupation to the world.



Cover of the novel «In Praise of the Women of the Family» and its translation

What is truly remarkable is that in 2011, the writer Mahmoud Shuqair celebrated his entry into his eighth decade—his seventieth year. Upon reviewing his vast intellectual output, including conferences, seminars, and various contributions, we find that approximately 60% of these activities have occurred after his seventieth birthday, extending to the present day.

This suggests something profound: Mahmoud Shuqair is crafting an essential narrative about the passage of time. He demonstrates that old age does not equate to frailty or withdrawal, but rather marks a phase of renewed productivity. It is a time to harness the wisdom accrued over the years. Notably, much of his recent work has focused on children's literature, signaling that Shuqair's later years are shaping future generations, leaving an enduring legacy.

As we conclude this analytical study of the creativity of Mahmoud Shuqair, the prolific Jerusalemite thinker and writer, we must recognize his extraordinary

range across the literary, cultural, and intellectual landscape. His contributions span genres—from short stories and novels to travel writing, cinema, theater, and biography, both personal and collective. Alongside these, his articles and rigorous academic research on cultural matters, especially those concerning Palestine and Jerusalem, have positioned him as a distinguished voice in the literary and cultural scene.

In seeking the source of this creative abundance, we turn to the insightful words of the Palestinian thinker Faisal Darraj. In 2002, Darraj, introducing Shuqair’s short story collection “A Quick Passage”, offered a testimonial that illuminates Shuqair’s unique literary approach. He remarked that Shuqair, while refining his craft, never sacrifices sincerity for the allure of language. His writing is at once revealing and discreet, never veering into ambiguity or falling into formalism that lacks substance. Instead, his stories foster a dialogue, transforming the act of reading into a shared experience between writer and reader, far from mechanical prose.¹⁵

Thus, Mahmoud Shuqair—born, raised, and deeply connected to Jerusalem—reintroduces himself to us through the answers he has provided in the preceding questions. These insights cast light on significant aspects of his life and work, some of which he has already touched upon in his autobiographical writings.

15 - This testament was offered somewhat early, yet it remains fitting for over sixty literary works that Mahmoud Shuqair published in the years that followed, spanning from 2003 to 2023.

Sources and References

- Borini, Ayat Mamoun Jaber (2017). *The Image of Women in the Palestinian Novel: The Novels «The Family Horse» and «In Praise of the Women of the Family» by Mahmoud Shuqair as a Model*. Unpublished Master's Thesis. Birzeit University, Birzeit, Palestine.
- Al-Zahrawi, Haya Muhammad, and Fattoos, Bassam Musa (2016). *The Aesthetics of Experimentation in Mahmoud Shuqair's Short Story Blog*. Unpublished Master's Thesis. Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan.
- Hamida, Tariq Mustafa (2016). «A Reading of Mahmoud Shuqair's Novels: The Family Horse and In Praise of the Women of the Family.» *Palestinian Affairs Magazine*, Issue 265, pp. 241-269.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2023a). *Windows for Confession and Longing: A Book of Short Stories*. Tabaq Publishing and Distribution House, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2023b). *The Stubborn Mother: A Story for Girls and Boys*. Tabaq Publishing and Distribution House, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2022a). *Completed Short Stories: Very Short Stories*. General Union of Palestinian Writers and Authors, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2022b). *A House of Colors, Ismail and Tamam: A Novel Biography*. Tabaq Publishing and Distribution House, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2022c). *Ghassan Kanafani... Forever: A Biography*. Tamer Institute for Community Education, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2022d). *Those Times: An Autobiography*. Dar Noufal, Beirut, Lebanon.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2021a). *Stork: A Story for Children*. Tamer Institute for Community Education, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2021b). *Morning Milk: Very Short Stories*. Library of Everything, Haifa, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2020a). *Love of the Homeland Series: Children's Stories*. Eliahor Publishing and Distribution House, Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2020b). *Aunt Maryam Series: Children's Stories*. Eliahor Publishing and Distribution House, Jerusalem.

- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2020c). *The Adventures of Mahdi and Jumana: Children's Stories*. Eliahor Publishing and Distribution House, Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2020d). *Those Places: An Autobiography*. Dar Noufal, Beirut, Lebanon.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2020h). *Those Distant Cities: Trips for Girls and Boys*. Library of Everything, Haifa, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud, and Anab, Shiraz (2020). *Another Time for Joy: For Girls and Boys - From Letter Literature*. Library of Everything, Haifa, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2019a). *Layla's Daylight: A Story for Children*. Noon Books: Nahed Al-Shawa Cultural Foundation. Website: <https://noonbooks.com>. Germany.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2019b). *Island of Speech: Stories for Children*. Dar Lusail for Publishing and Distribution, Doha, Qatar.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2019c). *Shadows of the Family: A Novel*. Dar Noufal, Beirut, Lebanon.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2018a). *Me and Writing: From the ABCs of Language to the Sea of Words - A Literary Biography*. Dar Lusail for Publishing and Distribution, Doha.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2018b). *Ajiba: A Story for Children*. Noon Books: Nahed Al-Shawa Cultural Foundation. Website: <https://noonbooks.com>.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2018c). *The Rooftop Pigeon* (Shuqair, 2018c: A Novel for Girls and Boys. Kul Shi Library, Haifa, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2018d). *Moons of Al-Quds: For Children Aged 3-8 Years. Six Books*. Kul Shi Library, Haifa, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2018e). *Fadwa Touqan: The Most Glorious Journey - A Text for Girls and Boys*. Tamer Institute for Community Education, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2017a). *Ceilings of Desire: Very Short Stories*. Kul Shi Library, Haifa, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2017b). *In Some Manifestations of Palestinian Culture: Studies, Articles, and Testimonies*. Dar Nour for Publishing, Germany.

- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2016a). Mahdi's Song and Other Stories: Stories for Children. Al-Zayzafouna Publications, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2016b). Jumana Al-Rummanah and Other Stories: Stories for Children. Al-Zayzafouna Publications, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2016c). Waiting for Snow: A Novel for Girls and Boys. Dar Al-Ahlia, Amman.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2016d). Me, My Friend, and the Donkey: A Novel for Girls and Boys. Tamer Institute for Community Education, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2016e). Ramallah That Is There: A Biography for Girls and Boys. Al-Zayzafouna Publications, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2016f). «Manifestations of Culture in Jerusalem: A National Culture Against the Culture of Invasion.» In Jerusalem, Reality and Challenges: A Collection of Research Papers. Research Center - Palestine Liberation Organization, Ramallah, Palestine, pp. 49-80.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2015a). In Praise of Women of the Family: A Novel. Dar Noufal, Beirut, Lebanon.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2014a). Maryam and Canaan and Other Stories: Stories for Girls and Boys. Al-Zayzafouna Publications, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2014b). Sanaa's Bird: A Story for Children. Dar Al-Buhaira, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2014c). Jerusalem Is My First City: A Biography for Girls and Boys. Al-Zayzafouna Publications, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2013a). Me and Fatoum and the Wind and the Clouds: A Story for Children. Al-Zayzafouna Publications, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2013b). The Words of Maryam: A Novel for Girls and Boys. Al-Zayzafouna Publications, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2013c). The Family Horse: A Novel. Dar Noufal, Beirut.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2012a). A Girl and Three Boys in the City of the Grandfathers: A Story for Girls and Boys. Tamer Institute for Community Education, Ramallah, Palestine.

- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2012b). Kittens at School and Other Stories: A Collection of Short Stories for Children. Al-Zayzafouna Publications, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2012c). Children of the Strange Neighborhood: A Story for Children. Al-Zayzafouna Publications, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2012d). Complete Short Stories: Short Stories, Volume One. Raya Publishing and Distribution House, Haifa, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2012e). Praise for the Mirrors of the Country: Diaries. Al-Jundi Publishing and Distribution House, Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2011a). The Donkey's Journey and Other Stories: A Collection of Short Stories for Children. Al-Zayzafouna Publications, Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2011b). City of Losses and Desire. Dar Noufal for Publishing and Distribution. Beirut, Lebanon.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2010a). Dreams of the Skinny Boy - A Novel for Girls and Boys. Tamer Institute for Community Education. Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2010b). Jerusalem Told Us - Texts, Diaries, and Testimonies. Palestinian Ministry of Culture. Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2010c). Jerusalem Alone There. Dar Noufal for Publishing and Distribution. Beirut, Lebanon.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2010d). Reading in One Hundred Palestinian Books. Tamer Institute for Community Education. Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2008a). A White Dog with a Black Spot - A Children's Story. Ugarit Center for Publishing and Translation. Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2007a). A Distant Planet for My Sister the Queen - A Novel for Girls and Boys. Tamer Publications for Community Education. Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2007b). Mirrors of Absence - Prose Texts. Arab Institution for Studies and Publishing. Beirut.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2006a). Slight Probabilities - Very Short Stories. Arab Institution for Studies and Publishing. Beirut.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2005a). Charming Cities and Reckless Air - Journeys.

Arab Institution for Studies and Publishing. Beirut.

- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2004a). The Little King - A Children's Story. UNRWA Publications - Department of Education. Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2004b). `Alaa in the Little House - A Children's Story. UNRWA Publications - Department of Education. Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2004c). The Tree Told Us - A Collection of Children's Stories. Ugarit Center for Publishing and Translation. Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2004d). My Cousin Condoleezza - A Collection of Short Stories. The Arab Foundation for Studies and Publishing. Beirut.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2004e). A Small Courtyard for Evening Sorrows - Very Short Stories. The Arab Foundation for Studies and Publishing. Beirut.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2004f). The Woodcutter - A Popular Tale. Dar Al-Shorouk for Publishing and Distribution. Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2003a). The Image of Shakira - A Collection of Short Stories. The Arab Foundation for Studies and Publishing. Beirut.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2003b). The Shipmaster - Three Play Texts for Girls and Boys. Ugarit Center for Publishing and Translation. Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2002a). A Quick Passage - Very Short Stories. Dar Al-Shorouk for Publishing and Distribution. Amman, Jordan.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2001a). Birds on the Window - A Story for Girls and Boys. UNRWA Publications - Department of Education. Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2001b). The Boy Who Breaks the Glass - A Story for Children. UNRWA Publications - Department of Education. Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2001c). A Harsh Experience - A Story for Children. UNRWA Publications - Department of Education. Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (2000a). Me and Jumana - A Novel for Girls and Boys. Ugarit Center for Publishing and Translation. Ramallah, Palestine.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1999). The Rooster's Profession - A Collection of Stories for Children. Ugarit Center for Publishing and Translation. Ramallah, Palestine.

- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1998). *Another Shadow of the City - A Biography of the Place*. Dar Al-Quds Publications. Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1996). *Mary Said... The Boy Said - A Long Story for Girls and Boys*. Publications of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Authors. Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1991). *The Silence of the Windows - Very Short Stories*. Dar Al-Ahali Publications. Damascus, Syria.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1990a). *Roses for the Blood of the Prophets - A Collection of Short Stories*. Dar Al-Ahali Publications. Damascus, Syria.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1990b). *Bread of Others - A Collection of Short Stories*. Dar Al-Thaqafa Al-Jadida. Cairo. Special Edition.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1988). *The Donkey's Song - A Collection of Short Stories for Children*. Dar Al-Karmel for Publishing and Distribution. Amman, Jordan.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1986a). *Rituals for the Unhappy Woman - Very Short Stories*. Dar Ibn Rushd Publications. Amman, Jordan.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1986b). *The Barrier - A Collection of Short Stories for Children*. Dar Al-Karmel for Publishing and Distribution. Amman, Jordan.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1986c). *The Soldier and the Game - A Collection of Short Stories for Children*. Ibn Rushd Publishing and Distribution House. Amman, Jordan.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1977). *The Palestinian Boy - A Collection of Short Stories*. Salah al-Din Publications. Jerusalem.
- Shuqair, Mahmoud (1975). *Bread of Others - A Collection of Short Stories*. Salah al-Din Publications. Jerusalem.